

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING JUDGE ROMAN S. GIBBS ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize, honor and salute my dear friend Judge Roman S. Gibbs on his retirement from the Michigan Court of Appeals and for his many years of dedicated public service.

Beginnings do not come much more humble than Roman's. He attended grammar school in a one-room schoolhouse in the Thumb area of Michigan, and in 1944 graduated, as salutatorian, from Capac High School. After serving in the United States Army, Roman graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Detroit in 1952, with a degree in Economics and Accounting. In 1954, he earned his Juris Doctor from the same school.

Roman began his professional career as an instructor at his alma mater, the University of Detroit. He later served as Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor, Presiding Traffic Court Referee for the City of Detroit and Wayne County Sheriff. From 1970 through 1974, Judge Gibbs served as Mayor of Detroit, during which time he also was President of the National League of Cities. While working as a partner at the law firm Fenton, Niderlander, Dodge, Barris and Gibbs, P.C., Roman was also an Adjunct Professor at the University of Michigan. As though these many accomplishments were not enough, Mr. Speaker, my good friend has spent the last 23 years serving as a judge, first on the Third Judicial Circuit Court of Michigan, then on the Michigan Court of Appeals.

In addition to his vast professional accomplishments, Roman is an active member of many fine organizations including: the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Economic Club of Detroit, American Academy of Political and Social Sciences, the League of Women Voters of Michigan, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and Michigan Youth Commission to name only a few.

Mr. Speaker, as Roman leaves the public limelight to spend time with his lovely wife, Lee, and his five children, I would ask that all of my colleagues salute Roman and his leadership, hard work and caring heart.

HONORING DR. LINDA ROSENSTOCK

HON. DAVID R. OBEY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are extremely fortunate to have recruited and retained one of the top

occupational health physicians in the country to lead NIOSH over the past six years. As an internationally known authority in the field of occupational safety and health, Dr. Linda Rosenstock's steadfast devotion and visionary leadership have contributed significantly in establishing NIOSH as the model agency for occupational safety and health research. With this in mind, it comes as no surprise that she was recently selected as the new Dean of the School of Public Health at the University of California, Los Angeles, and while the CDC and NIOSH will miss her insightful leadership; young professionals and the public health environment as a whole will benefit in yet another way from her knowledge, hard work, and dedication to the field of occupational safety and health.

In her role as Director of NIOSH, Dr. Rosenstock relied greatly upon input from industry, labor unions, academia, government and other occupational health and safety professionals to help guide the Institute in a new direction that would explore the changing nature of our nation's workforce and work environment. Much of this involvement came about through the introduction of the National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA), a framework for guiding occupational safety and health research that was developed in collaboration with 500 external partners. This along with the strategic relocation of the health and safety functions of the former Bureau of Mines, and the completion of a new state-of-the-art research facility in Morgantown, West Virginia has brought an annual appropriation increase of \$85 million to NIOSH since Dr. Rosenstock's arrival in 1994.

Dr. Rosenstock's hard work and dedication to occupational safety and health will long be remembered by this Congress and by the workers in this country who have benefitted from her efforts.

UP THE ANTE ON PAKISTAN

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following articles for the Record.

[From the Washington Post, Sept. 11, 2000]

UP THE ANTE ON PAKISTAN

(By Arthur H. Davis)

While bitter enemies form Ireland to Israel are bowing to the dictates of peace and economic development, the threat of war in South Asia continues to loom large. The economy of Pakistan is sinking, yet the focus of the military leadership remains stronger than ever on Kashmir. Pakistan's junta continues to concentrate all of its resources on funding and fueling terrorism in Kashmir on the one hand, while on the other dashing domestic hopes for a return to a democratic and secular society.

Gen. Pervez Musharraf, the self-appointed chief executive of Pakistan, who also has the

dubious distinction of being the coup leader and saboteur of the Lahore peace process, went on record saying that however the people of Kashmir decide their fate will be acceptable to Pakistan. The general also has reiterated his willingness to conduct his own talks with India at any place and any time on all issues, if Kashmir is included. Yet recent events clearly belie hopes that he intends to honor his words.

In late July the world welcomed the announcement of a three-month cease-fire and the offer of unconditional talks with the central government of India by the Hizbul Mujaheddin, the largest militant group in Indian Kashmir. Majir Dar, the Hizbul commander operating in Indian Kashmir, reportedly made this unexpected announcement after secret meetings with Hizbul followers and presumably with the group's leader, Sayed Salahuddin, who resides in Pakistan.

To this, the Indian government exhibited a new and welcome flexibility by responding positively to the offer. Lt. Gen. John Mukherjee, commander of Indian forces in Kashmir, announced the cessation of all operations against the Hizbul, while senior officials from Delhi proceeded to Kashmir to discuss the modalities of talks with the Hizbul. Unfortunately, the prospect for peace was not met with similar alacrity by Pakistan's military and fundamentalist religious leaders, who were clearly caught off guard by this show of militant independence. Pakistani security agents reportedly picked up Salahuddin shortly after the cease fire agreement, while his Hizbul Mujaheddin was ejected from the United Jihad Council, the umbrella alliance of Kashmiri militant outfits. And while official Pakistani responses initially were muted, wholesale attempts since have been underway by the junta to employ its influence over the regional militants to derail the

On the night of Aug. 1, more than a hundred Hindus, many of them pilgrims, were massacred by Pakistani-backed terrorists. The massacre has been followed by the attachment of two deal-breaking caveats to Hizbul's offer of "unconditional" talks. In a move the State Department has since termed "not helpful," Hizbul has demanded a seat for Pakistan at any talks and also that those talks be conducted outside the scope of India's constitution, thus allowing for a deal on Kashmiri independence. Indian leaders long have resisted both conditions.

It has been widely stated in Washington and other Western capitals that India must negotiate with the Pakistani military for a definitive peace to be achieved. But the question remains whether the army really wants peace. All three wars between India and Pakistan have been fought when there were military governments in Pakistan. A fourth, under the present military leadership, remains a possibility—this time with a nuclear shadow cast upon it.

The Pakistani military regime is exhibiting an almost pathological determination to keep South Asia in turmoil, doing little to curb Islamic fundamentalism and terrorism breeding within its borders, while scuttling others' steps toward peace.

During his visit to the region earlier this year, President Clinton threaded a needle of admonishing Pakistan for its support of violence in Kashmir while keeping the door open for engagement if it abated such activities. Unfortunately, his stern warnings have

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

yet to exact much change. Pakistan's intended destruction of the nascent Kashmir peace process requires a firmer response from the U.S. administration. Declaring Pakistan a terrorist state, and thus putting it on par with the terrorist group it harbors and supports, would encourage the people of Pakistan to remove the military warmongers who have deprived them of sustainable development.

It is clear who wants peace in the region and who does not. Only by challenging Pakistan's duplicatous ways will peace have a hope of winning.

[From the Los Angeles Times, Sept. 12, 2000]

ARMED INDIA CAN HELP STABILIZE ASIA

(By Selig S. Harrison)

In May, 1998, India conducted five nuclear tests. More than two years later, the United States, with a record of 949 nuclear tests during the five decades since Hiroshima, is still enforcing punitive economic sanctions against New Delhi, poisoning the entire relationship between the world's two largest democracies.

President Clinton should quietly bury this self-defeating policy when he meets with Prime Minister Atul Behari Vajpayee at the White House this week. Pressuring India to reverse its commitment to develop nuclear weapons merely strengthens Indian hawks who oppose closer relations with Washington and favor an all-out nuclear buildup that would stimulate nuclear arms races with China and Pakistan.

The United States should accept the reality of a nuclear armed India as part of a broader recognition of its emergence as a major economic and military power. Such a shift would remove the last major barrier blocking a rapid improvement in Indo-U.S. relations. President Clinton has kept up the pressure on India to forswear nuclear weapons despite the fact that all sections of Indian opinion strongly favor a nuclear deterrent.

Instead of persisting in a futile effort to roll back the Indian nuclear weapons program, the United States should seek to influence the current debate in New Delhi over the size and character of the nuclear buildup. A more relaxed relationship with New Delhi would facilitate U.S. cooperation with moderate elements in the Indian leadership who favor nuclear restraint.

A U.S. policy focused on nuclear restraint rather than nuclear rollback should not only seek to minimize the number of warheads but also to keep them under civilian control and to limit the frequency of missile tests. Other key U.S. goals should be to get India to sign the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and to formalize de facto Indian restrictions on the export of nuclear technology.

Moderate elements in New Delhi are sympathetic to many of these objectives but need U.S. quid pro quos to make them politically attainable. For example, the continuation of sanctions makes it impossible for the Indian government to sign the test ban without appearing to surrender to foreign pressure. Equally important, the sanctions have blocked \$3 billion in multilateral aid credits for power projects and other economic development priorities.

Together with the removal of sanctions, the U.S. should greatly reduce the blanket restrictions on the transfer of dual-use technology that were imposed after the 1998 tests. These restrictions cover many items with little relevance to nuclear weapons.

The most important U.S. quid pro quo would be the relaxation of the existing U.S. ban on the sale of civilian nuclear reactors badly needed by India to help meet its grow-

ing energy needs. Indians find it galling that China is permitted to buy U.S. reactors, while India is not.

The reason for this blatantly discriminatory policy lies in legalistic hair-splitting in the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Since China had tested nuclear weapons in 1964, it was classified as a "nuclear weapons state" under the treaty. As such, Beijing was eligible to sign the NPT, along with the other powers then possessing nuclear weapons, the United States, Russia, Britain and France.

All other states were barred in perpetuity from the nuclear club and asked to forswear nuclear weapons formally by signing the treaty. India branded the NPT as discriminatory and refused to sign. Now it would like to sign as a nuclear weapon state but the U.S. will not permit it.

The NPT itself does not bar its signatories from providing nuclear technology to non-signatories such as India. However, the U.S. Congress went beyond the NPT with a law stipulating that non-signatories cannot receive U.S. nuclear technology even if they accept International Atomic Energy Agency, or IAEA, safeguards on its use, which India is willing to do. This legislation even bars the U.S. from helping India to make its nuclear reactors safer.

Significantly, Hans Blix, the respected former IAEA director who now heads the U.N. arms inspection mission to Iraq, has urged that the ban on civilian nuclear sales to both India and Pakistan be lifted if they are willing to make two major concessions: signing the test ban and agreeing to freeze their stockpiles of weapons-grade fissile material at present levels.

"There is nothing in the NPT that would stand in the way of such an arrangement," Blix noted at a Stockholm seminar, and as matters stand, "India and Pakistan are most unlikely to discard whatever nuclear weapons capacity they possess. There is even a clear risk of a race between them to increase fissile material stocks."

The United States has been pushing India to join in a multilateral moratorium on fissile material production but without offering clear incentives. Blix has proposed a more realistic approach. U.S. policy should be based on a tactic recognition that a multipolar Asian balance of power in which India possesses a minimum nuclear deterrent will be more stable than one in which China enjoys a nuclear monopoly.

HONORING BETTE BELLE SMITH

HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, today I honor a very special lady. When I think of Bette Belle Smith I am truly amazed. This remarkable woman is the epitome of the word inspiration. I am proud to report to my colleagues Bette Belle has been named as California's Outstanding Older Worker for 2000 by Green Thumb, Inc.

Her story is truly one of extraordinary accomplishment. Consider that she didn't enter the workforce until she was 57 years old. Now, 22 years later she's still holding the same job as a bank vice president. As amazing as that may seem, what makes this lady so special is that she is truly the queen of volunteerism.

In fact, Bette Belle has been volunteering most of her life. She began her career as a

volunteer during the Second World War with the American Red Cross. Among the organizations she is involved with since then include the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, California Women for Agriculture and the 4-H Sponsor Committee, the American Field Service International Scholarship Program and AFS Committee, United Way and Special Events Committee, the McHenry Museum Society and Museum Guild and the Modesto Symphony Orchestra board.

When she walks into a room, Mr. Speaker, it's nearly impossible to say no to her. Is it any wonder why The United Way of Stanislaus County named its annual volunteerism award, the "Bette Belle Smith Community Award?" I am proud to call this incredible woman my friend. She is tireless and a fantastic role model for us all.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to rise and join me in honoring Bette Belle Smith.

QUALITY, NOT QUANTITY; RESULTS, NOT PROCESS

SPEECH OF

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to our distinguished colleague from Seven Valleys, Pennsylvania, the Honorable WILLIAM GOODLING. BILL GOODLING has served his constituents and the nation in this body for more than a quarter century. In that time, he has proven himself a dedicated public servant, one who recognizes the importance of, as he says, quality over quantity and results over process.

That philosophy has been most apparent during his tenure as Chairman of the Education and the Workforce Committee. Over the past six years, BILL GOODLING has worked tirelessly for fair and comprehensive education and labor policy. He has advocated returning control over our children's education to parents, teachers, principals, and local school districts because BILL knows that no one is better qualified to meet their educational needs than the people who interact with them every day.

In fact, very few among us are as well suited as BILL GOODLING to championing the improvement of this nation's educational system. Prior to coming to Washington, he served his community as a teacher, principal, and coach. He even served as school superintendent, so he knows first-hand the educational needs of children.

From his development of the Even Start Program to aid parents in supporting this children's learning process and his support of the Ed Flex bill, to his push to increase the percentage of American children receiving quality education from the current 50 percent to 100 percent, we know that BILL GOODLING has recognized the need to work today to create a better tomorrow.

I know I speak for many of our colleagues when I say that BILL GOODLING's insight and experience will be missed. Thank you, BILL, for your many years of service, and good luck in your future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MILDRED MILLIE
JEFFREY

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is with high honor and deep admiration that I share the words of President William Jefferson Clinton as he bestowed the Presidential Medal of Freedom to a national treasure from the State of Michigan, Mildred "Millie" Jeffrey.

As a Catholic schoolgirl, Millie Jeffrey dodged the stones of neighborhood bigots and watched Klansmen march through town with a burning cross. As a union organizer in Mississippi, she stood bravely as company men snapped bullwhips at her feet. Clearly, they didn't know whom they were up against.

She may be small in stature and humble in manner, but she is very strong. She worked for Walter Reuther and counseled the Kennedys, influencing all with her courage and unflagging commitment to social justice. To meet the need for more women in public office, she started the National Women's Political Caucus, and sparked the effort to nominate Geraldine Ferraro 16 years ago.

For countless women around the world, she remains an inspiration. Her impact will be felt for generations, and her example never forgotten.

It has been my personal privilege to work side by side with Millie Jeffrey over these years on many vital issues ranging from the world of politics including the campaign of Robert Kennedy to the world of civil rights and the rights of women. It is hard to convey through the written word Millie's enthusiasm and dogged devotion to her causes. She not only continues to "light up" a room, but she remains committed to action and results.

In closing, let me share a bit of Millie Jeffrey herself from an upcoming documentary film of her life, "You never win freedom permanently. You have to win it time after time after time—whether it's union rights, civil rights, equality in education or for women in any aspect of our lives. We have to keep at it, and at it."

TRIBUTE TO J.R. CURTIS

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of an exceptional man, an outstanding community leader and beloved citizen of Longview, Texas, the late J.R. Curtis, whose life was cut short at the age of 55 following a motorcycle accident on September 2 in Durango, Colorado. J.R. lived life with enthusiasm—and with a tremendous devotion to his family, his community, his friends and his faith. He leaves a remarkable legacy of professional and civic accomplishments—as well as a legacy of loving relationships with his family and many friends.

J.R. was born on August 18, 1945, to James R. Curtis, Sr., and Sarah DeRue Armstrong Curtis of Longview. He graduated from Longview High School in 1963 and graduated from Texas Christian University in Fort Worth in 1967. He also attended the American Institute of Foreign Trade in Glendale, Ariz., from 1967–68.

J.R. was a successful and popular radio broadcaster in Longview. He purchased KFRO AM/FM radio station from his father in 1986 and was the owner and manager until 1998. He also became owner of KLSQ-FM and operated KNYN in Santa Fe, N.M. He began his broadcasting career in high school, working for his father's station as sportscaster for KFRO's Wednesday night Teen Time Program. He learned all aspects of the radio business, from engineering to news and sales, at an early age.

J.R. was active in the Texas Association of Broadcasters, serving as a medium market director for TAB and as president of TAB. He was named Texas Broadcaster of the Year in 1990. He also was active at the national level, serving as a member of the National Association of Broadcasters Blitz Committee and as a director of NAB in Washington, DC, from 1996–99.

In addition to broadcasting, J.R. served as president of the Curtis Foundation, president of Workmans Oil Co., and a director of First Federal Savings Bank of Longview from 1982–1997. At the time of his death, he was employed as a consultant with Longview Economic Development Corp.

J.R. served nine years on the Longview City Council, from 1975–1984. In 1977 he became the youngest mayor in Texas when he was appointed by the council at age 33 to the city's top job. His recent community involvement included serving as president and vice president of Longview 20/20 Forum; finance chairman of Longview Museum Fine Arts, 1997; director of Longview Partnership, 1995–98; and a member of the administrative board of First United Methodist Church, 1996–98. He had a 19-year perfect attendance record in the Longview Rotary Club, where for many years he kept the membership informed of local and national news.

Other involvements included serving as president of Gregg County Housing Finance Corp., executive committee member for the East Texas Council of Governments, director of Little Cypress Utility District, director of the Longview Chamber of Commerce, foundation board member of Good Shepherd Medical Center, foundation board member of LeTourneau University, board member of Crisman Preparatory School and a volunteer for many other organizations. He was a member of the Collier Sunday School Class at First United Methodist Church and an usher at the church.

J.R. is survived by his loving wife of 33 years, Sue Skaggs Curtis; his son and daughter-in-law, Jason Skaggs Curtis and Janey of Fort Worth; his daughter, Elizabeth Ann Curtis of Longview; granddaughter, Margaret Lynn of Fort Worth; his aunt, Ruth Elizabeth Curtis Gray of Longview; mother-in-law, Fredna Skaggs of Longview; brother-in-law Bill Hodges of Longview and brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Dr. and Mrs. Richard Lucas of Longview; two nephews and a niece, and other relatives. He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Elizabeth DeRue Curtis Hodges.

J.R. had biked to Durango with five friends for an annual getaway vacation. He died as he had lived—with enthusiasm for life and for friendship. He will long be remembered for the significant contributions he made to his beloved city of Longview. As his wife and high school sweetheart, Sue Curtis, noted, "He

loved Longview. He believed in Longview. He was born here and went to school here and wanted to make it a better place."

And he did. J.R.'s influence can be found everywhere in Longview—and will be felt for years to come. Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, let us do so in celebration of the life of this wonderful man and citizen of Longview, Texas—J.R. Curtis, whose memory will be cherished in the hearts and minds of those who knew him and loved him.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN ON THE OCCASION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA'S 89TH NATIONAL DAY

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, on the eve of the Republic of China's 89th National Day, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing our friends in Taiwan a most happy and enjoyable National Day.

Mr. Speaker, like many of my colleagues and me, there are countless people across this nation who applaud the economic and political accomplishments of our friends in Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, I truly wish there were more nations in the world following Taiwan's example of unprecedented economic success and rapid democratization; Taiwan is indeed the shining model that all developing nations in the world should seek to emulate. I am certain, Mr. Speaker, that many of my colleagues, given the opportunity, would express the same sentiment.

I am pleased for this opportunity to extend every good wish to the people of Taiwan and its leaders.

TAIWAN CELEBRATES ITS BIRTHDAY

HON. RICK HILL

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. HILL of Montana. Mr. Speaker, Taiwan will celebrate its birthday on October 10, 2000. Taiwan is a modern country led by President Chen Shui-bian, who believes that Taiwan's future lies in a strong democracy and a free enterprise system. Taiwan is an excellent model of democracy, as was demonstrated in its March presidential election. Since his inauguration as president on May 20, President Chen has convincingly demonstrated his leadership. Economically, in addition to its well-known industrial prowess, in recent years Taiwan leads most Asian nations in its production of computers, chips and telecommunications equipment.

Taiwan is Montana's 5th largest trade partner, purchasing millions of dollars of Montana exports of agricultural products, chemicals and machinery. I want to thank our friends in Taiwan for their continued importation of Montana goods.

Taiwan's citizens enjoy one of the highest living standards in the world. On the occasion

of Republic of China's National Day, it is important to remember that Taiwan has a strong relationship with the United States and we hope that this relationship will continue to flourish in the years to come. Happy birthday Taiwan.

IN MEMORIAL OF THOMAS J.
LASSITER

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, today I celebrate the life and memory of Mr. Thomas J. Lassiter of Smithfield, NC. Mr. Lassiter was a talented and influential journalist, a respected community figure, and a dedicated family man. As a journalist and editor of the Smithfield herald, Mr. Lassiter was widely known for his bold and careful thought and for taking sometimes unpopular, yet morally correct positions on issues of the day. History has proven that Thomas Lassiter was truly a man before his time.

Thomas James Lassiter, Jr. was born on August 21, 1911, to Thomas and Rena Lassiter, and graduated from Duke University in 1932. After taking a year to play jazz trombone with the Jelly Leftwich orchestra, Mr. Lassiter returned to Smithfield to join his mother at the herald, where she was serving as editor. He remained at the paper for not quite half a century until his retirement in 1980. During the 1940's, 50's, and 60's. Lassiter gained fame for his strong editorials on racial justice and his opinions on local and international issues. He also served as president of the North Carolina Press Association in 1951-52, and in 1982 was elected to the North Carolina Journalism Hall of Fame. Mr. Lassiter also taught journalism at the University of North Carolina from 1948 to 1953.

By virtue of the words he wrote in the Smithfield herald, Mr. Lassiter was already a public figure, but he also was motivated to serve his community through action. Over the years, he served as chairman or president of the Smithfield Library Board of Trustees, the Smithfield Chamber of Commerce, the local chapter of the North Carolina Symphony Society, and the Smithfield Kiwanis Club. He was also a leader at Smithfield First Baptist Church, as superintendent of Sunday school and church history. Mr. Lassiter was also committed to his family. Together he and Elizabeth, his wife of 61 years, raised two children who gave him four grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, before I close I want to read a quote from one of Mr. Lassiter's editorials. I believe it summarizes the greatness and vision of his work and gives us an idea of the intellect Mr. Lassiter possessed. This excerpt taken from an article titled "A Regrettable Rift" was written after some African American citizens were denied the right to register to vote in the 1945 Smithfield primary election.

All the Negroes who presented themselves for registration—more than 75 of them—were turned down, while only two whites were denied the privilege of getting their names in the book.

Racial discrimination is on the way out in America and the sooner the people generally recognizing that fact the better it will be for

whites as well as Negroes. Racial discrimination is on the way out because it is fundamentally wrong. It is contrary to the very heart of the teachings of Jesus Christ. It is contrary to the highest concept of democracy. It is specially forbidden by the Constitution of the United States.

Negroes pay taxes; they are subject to the same laws that govern whites; they are drafted into the armed forces; they shed their blood on the battlefields alongside of white soldiers. If they are asked to spill their blood for democracy, can we honorably deny them the right to share in the democracy for which they fight?

How long will the Negroes refrain from militancy or belligerency in their struggle for basic rights? That depends upon how soon the majority race frees itself from deep-rooted prejudices and refrains from denying Negroes fundamental democratic privileges which are guaranteed them by the highest law in the land.

Twenty years before the Voting Rights Act, the extraordinary editorial was bold, visionary and courageous. Mr. Speaker, Thomas J. Lassiter left us a legacy of words and actions that inspire us to improve our society, serve our local community, and uphold the honor of our families. I am honored to share his story and celebrate his legacy with this House today.

IN MEMORY OF BETTY BANKS

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of a beloved citizen of the Fourth Congressional District and a dear friend, the later Betty Jean Henderson Banks of Ivanhoe, Texas, who passed away earlier this year. Betty was a wonderful woman whose kindness and dedication to her family, friends and community will be long remembered.

Born in Louisiana to the late Lafayette Victor Henderson and Ida Butler Starke Henderson, Betty married James Walter Banks in 1938 in Bonham, Texas. Throughout her years in Bonham, Betty raised a family and worked tirelessly on behalf of her community. Betty was known by many of her work at the Sam Rayburn Memorial Veterans Center in Bonham, where she worked in food service. She also was known throughout Bonham for her volunteer efforts on numerous causes, for making uniforms for the Missionettes (Girls Club) to helping find and fight for a liver transplant for a baby in need. Betty was an integral part of a women's prayer group that met monthly for a prayer breakfast at the First National Bank in Bonham, and she was a member of the First Pentecostal Church of God in Bonham.

In the local paper, this was written about Betty by Mrs. Paul Keahey: "Over the years she stood up for truth and honesty at all levels of society and government and what she believed to be right." These sentiments were echoed by her many friends and fellow citizens who knew her and loved her.

Betty is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, James V. "Butch" Banks and Carol of Baytown; two daughters and sons-in-law, Kathy and Mike Stockton of Ravenna and Becky and Victor Santiago of West Haven,

Conn.; and a brother, Robert H. Henderson of Colville, Wash.. She is also survived by seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her loving husband, James Walter Banks, who passed away in 1996; a granddaughter, Amanda Stockton; brother, L. Victor Henderson, and a sister, Yvonne Henderson.

Betty was an honest and loyal friend to many and a role model in her community. We will miss her—but her legacy will live on in the lives of all those whom she touched with her generosity and kindness. Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, may we do so in memory of this beloved citizen of Fannin County, Betty Banks.

DR. JAMES BILLINGTON, LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS, HONORED FOR BICENTENNIAL AND LOCAL LEGACIES PROGRAM

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Dr. James H. Billington, the Librarian of Congress, and to thank him for the fine job that he and the staff of the Library have done with the Local Legacies program, which has served as the focal point of this year's bicentennial celebration for the Library.

As the members may be aware, the Library of Congress, the nation's oldest federal cultural institution, was established by an act of Congress in 1800, when President John Adams signed a bill transferring the seat of government from Philadelphia to the new capital city of Washington. In addition to the Local Legacies program, which is the focus of my remarks today, the bicentennial of this great institution has been observed with ceremonies, exhibitions, the issuance of a commemorative stamp and coins, as well as the launch of a new, easy-to-use and entertaining Web site, americaslibrary.gov.

In light of Dr. Billington's accomplishments and the tremendous success of the Local Legacies project, I would like to point out his ties to the Keystone State and to Northeastern Pennsylvania in particular. He is a native of Pennsylvania and holds an honorary degree from the University of Scranton. He has made great stride toward his goal of making the Library truly the "people's library," and the Local Legacies project is an excellent example of this.

Last year, each Member of Congress was asked to submit audio, visual, or textual documentation for at least one significant cultural heritage that has been important to his or her district or state to serve as a record for future generations, who might otherwise have lost this important knowledge forever. This documentation is now permanently housed in the collections of the Library's American Folklife Center. In May, Members of Congress and Local Legacies project participants from across the country came together in the Great Hall of the Thomas Jefferson building to celebrate the completion of this magnificent collection of historical material.

I was pleased to register several important cornerstones of community life in my district for posterity as Local Legacies: the Hazleton

Funfest, the Bloomsburg Fair, the West End Fair, the Wyoming Commemorative Association, the Anthracite Heritage Parade, the Pittston Tomato Festival and the Saint Mary's Annual Homecoming Picnic in Mocanaqua.

Led by Father Thomas Skotek, the pastor of Saint Mary's, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, the Mocanaqua community sent the largest delegation of anywhere in the country—more than 80 people—to Washington for the Local Legacies completion ceremony. I was pleased to introduce them to Dr. Billington at the ceremony.

Mr. Speaker, the visit of the Mocanaqua delegation for the Local Legacies celebration was a particularly special occasion for Frank Evina, a native of Mocanaqua and 30-year employee of the Library of Congress, whose accomplishments are noteworthy in their own right. Mr. Evina was co-coordinator of the Local Legacies project and has helped organize numerous exhibits at the Library, including The Thomas Jefferson Building: Book Palace of the America People," an exhibition marking the centennial of the opening of the Jefferson Building, and "The Wizard of Oz: An American Fairy Tale," an exhibition marking this year's 100th anniversary of one of America's most beloved stories, The Wonderful Wizard of Oz.

The Library is holding a gala celebration tonight as part of the year-long observation of its bicentennial. I send my congratulations to Dr. Billington, Mr. Evina and the staff of the Library of Congress for their tremendous work on the Local Legacies project and all of the bicentennial commemorations, and I also send my best wishes to the people of Saint Mary's and Mocanaqua for the continued success of the Homecoming Picnic.

FIGURE SKATING: A GLIMPSE OF FREEDOM

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, Janet Lynn fascinated the nation several years ago, when, as a 14-year-old figure skater, she participated in the 1968 Olympics. Four years later, she won a Bronze Medal. Her faith and perseverance captured the Nation. She spoke during the Independence Day celebration in her home town of Rockford, IL, where the people named the ice arena after her. Her remarks on family, faith, and freedom are so compelling that I want her testimony to affect other Americans.

I would like to submit the following remarks into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

FIGURE SKATING: A GLIMPSE OF FREEDOM (By Janet Lynn)

I am honored to be asked to speak with you. What a privilege that the City of Rockford remembers me with such respect. I realized recently that the honor I feel is even stronger because I have been at home as a wife and mother longer than I was a skater. The fact that I am still remembered, yet alone having an ice rink named after me, is very humbling. I will try to reflect what is in my heart and tell you what it means to me.

Speaking is not my favorite past time and preparing to speak is more difficult for me than you can imagine. You may not know this, but my parents introduced me to skating

hoping it would help cure my extreme shyness and timidity around people. But I liked to skate because I could express myself without talking to anyone! Somehow I think the joke was on me when I find myself invited to speak.

I grew up in Rockford from the age of 8. My memories of growing up here include my time at home, at the Wagon Wheel, at church and school, and my many opportunities to travel. It is here that foundations were built into my life. Skating was such an incredible vehicle to learn about many areas of life. I would like to share with you what I learned from the foundations of my skating, and relate them to the foundations of our nation; specifically, family, faith and freedom.

Since this is the eve of our country's birthday in a new millenium, I thought this would be entirely appropriate. The ability to live in a free and civilized nation has become a great passion for me. Over the years, even the many years that I have been raising my family, I have given deep thought to our freedom; where it comes from and why it is important. The skills and priorities I have developed from my job as wife, mother of 5 sons, and homemaker have strengthened my belief in the power and importance of strong foundations. The foundations historically provided by family and faith were the inspiration for our nation's beginning. I strongly believe that in order to continue to enjoy freedom in a civilized nation, we must rebuild our foundations.

God has placed in each and every human spirit the desire to be free. I think that skating is a very powerful metaphor of that hope of freedom.

It is my belief that one of the things that makes skating so very popular is that it looks so free. The people who skate well seem to fly. There is great exhilaration in watching skaters fly across the ice and then into the air with such beauty and grace! It touches something deep in the soul of many who watch.

I can tell you that when I was skating well, it did indeed seem like I was soaring; and I felt very free to attempt anything I wanted to on the ice. It was so much fun to let God and beautiful music inspire my spirit on the ice, to the point that I could express what in my soul, without talking. That freedom that I had to skate was built upon foundations.

I not only learned about freedom from learning to be free on the ice, but also from my experience of visiting nations that were not free.

Perhaps my travels when I was young have given me a perspective of which many are unaware. I had the rare opportunity to visit nations that were not free at the time and to experience in a small way the oppression and fear of expression so many wonderful people had to live under. I have seen people so afraid of being caught socializing with people from other nations that they hid in a closet. I was sobered when suspicions were confirmed that some "officials" who closely monitored and traveled with my skating peers from unfree nations were actually secret police.

On one occasion in an unfree nation we were assigned an interpreter for our entire stay with whom I innocently spoke to about God. He must have been immediately reassigned because we never saw him again. I didn't realize how serious that kind of conversation was in unfree nations.

I have vivid memories of being a young lady who saw the Stars and Stripes with an emotional and grateful heart upon returning to the United States. I had a new awareness of what that flag meant and what it has meant to many millions who have sought the privilege to live under its freedom and protection.

I remember wanting to kiss the ground of my country, the most free country on the face of the earth.

Even at a young age I knew there was an important difference between what I experienced in nations that were not free, and the freedom I knew in our great nation. I have thought long and hard to determine what the difference is between freedom and a lack of freedom and I believe the difference is found in the substance of foundations.

I learned about foundations from my skating. My brilliant coach, Miss Kohout, as I respectfully called her, constantly emphasized the foundational skills of my skating. How I executed a single jump was as important as how I executed a double or triple. I once had a three hour lesson on just one simple turn. Our challenging weekly Saturday night workout sessions mostly emphasized the foundations of skating. Plain stroking to music, as our muscles burned, was something I think we all dreaded. As Miss Kohout's students, we were especially challenged the day we had to stroke to music in rental hockey skates on very bad and chewed up ice. In the face of these challenges, our skills had to be strong and the technique proper. If the simple skills were not perfected, the advanced skills would become difficult, if not impossible and certainly much more dangerous.

As with the techniques and skills of skating, I learned that in order to have civilized freedom, our country must remain on its solid foundations. In skating, mastering those foundations required 4-10 hours a day, six days a week, of training, teaching and practicing. The discipline of school figures was an essential part of my training. Only when the foundational skills were mastered did I have the freedom to use those skills to express myself without fear of getting hurt. The training in those foundations of my skating continued for all the years that I skated. If I started having trouble with a jump, spin, turn, or edge, it could always be traced back to the loss or incorrect execution of foundational skills.

For 17 years I did not skate at all while I have tried to build and raise my family. When I began to skate again for physical fitness purposes, it became immediately clear that I had lost most of my freedom to express myself on the ice without fear of getting hurt. The foundations of my freedom on the ice were still somewhere in my memory, but I had to start reteaching myself and fighting with my body, which did not want to do those foundational skills in a way that gave me the freedom I once had. I could no longer enjoy the fun part of flying across the ice and doing jumps, spins, and footwork. To regain that freedom, I need to pay the price of rebuilding the foundations on the ice. When those foundations become second nature and I have the self-government of each muscle, then I will have earned the freedom to express myself without fear of getting hurt.

With all my heart I believe that these thoughts about my skating are a metaphor to what is happening in our nation. Our nation's freedom cost a great price. It was built upon certain foundations including the natural family and personal faith in the God Almighty. Today we have altered, or ignored, or perhaps forgotten the foundations of our nation's freedom, and I believe we are in great danger of losing our freedom to express ourselves without fear, as I have lost my freedom to skate.

There is a price to relearn the foundations of our freedom. But we can do it—and we must! I am concerned about the direction of our country. What kind of nation will my children, and yours, inherit? A lack of self control is omnipresent. Our culture seems to exist to satisfy the senses, and we have forgotten or deadened our souls. It is true that

if we are not governed from within ourselves, that we will have to be controlled with excessive regulation or restrictions and force. If we relearn our self-government, there will be no need for excessive restrictions.

Peter Marshall put it best: "James Madison, chief architect of the Constitution of the United States, once explained the nature of the American Republic in these words: 'We have staked the whole of all our political institutions upon the capacity of mankind for self-government, upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God.'" (This quote comes from "The Glory of America" by Peter Marshall and David Manuel.)

I do not want the next generation to inherit a nation where children are killing children as we have seen this past year in shock and horror, and where mothers and fathers are neglecting, abandoning or killing their own children. I want my children to inherit a nation that is relearning and applying the foundations of self-government, civility, and freedom. This work is hard, especially because parents have a hard time finding healthy opportunities for their children's growth that are not influenced by our degrading culture. That is why it is so important to make available in Rockford wholesome activities like ice skating which preserve the innocence of childhood.

I agree with William Bennett [as quoted in the Washington Times on October 12, 1999] as he spoke about "The Leading Cultural Indicators". He said, "the last 3½ decades . . . have 'fractured' many of the pillars American civilization stands on, and the nation remains 'more violent and vulgar, coarse and cynical, rude and remorseless, deviant and depressed,' than the one we once inhabited". He went on to say, "America's 'capacity for self-renewal is rare and real. We have relied on it in the

The foundations of my skating were supported by the foundations of our free nation. This profoundly impacted my ability to learn to skate and share my skill with others. In the United States of America I was free to express on the ice, without fear, what God put in my soul. The foundations of our free nation are within reach of every person in this land. They include family, faith and the great gift of living in a free country.

The important foundation of my family was essential as my skating developed and started to grow beyond anyone's expectations. I mentioned earlier that there is a price to learning and sustaining foundations. In my case my family often found themselves sacrificing for my success. They always did so with great grace, love and encouragement to me. It is hard to adequately express my thoughts and gratitude for the big and little things they did. I could not have accomplished what I did in skating without my father and mother, my brothers and sister, and my grandpa. They, all of them, gave me an honorable place to belong and a strong assurance that I was loved whether I won or lost (my worth did not come from skating). They taught me how to laugh at myself and they let me know I was a part of my natural family no matter what part of the world I was in, or how many hours I spent training. They gave me a perspective on life that went far beyond what I did on the ice. They are part of the reason that I know that what I have been doing as a homemaker is the most important job in the world.

The natural family is committed to one another and draws lessons, knowledge, love and a place of belonging from one another. It is a part of the foundation of our freedom. We need mothers who are devoted to their children and who are willing to spend quan-

tity time loving and teaching them right and wrong. They must be willing to forgo immediate personal fulfillment for long term family rewards. We need faithful fathers who work with all their might to take moral responsibility for their families and provide for them. Fathers and mothers need to grow in the ability to give strong, loving guidance. We need parents who are willing to make their children and homes a priority each day, providing them with security and safety; protecting the innocence of childhood.

Though material wealth may have to be sacrificed, the wealth of spirit can hold the family foundation steady. Taking the time to learn, and then to teach our children the morals and virtues that sustain freedom only costs our time, effort, and a healthy balance of love and discipline. These foundations of our freedom are available to anyone.

Faith, which is available to everyone, was another deep foundation of my skating. Even now, as I look back on my skating, it is continually apparent to me—even more than when I skated—that God had a plan for me to skate. I made that statement in an interview as a shy 14 year old girl right after I made the Olympic Team in 1968. The next day the headlines in the Rockford paper read something like: "God has plan for Janet to Skate". I have wondered if that sincere statement would make a headline today?

I did not choose the circumstances that surrounded my ability to skate. Nor did I choose my ability, nor the love that I developed for skating. It had to be a Providential plan.

My skating gave me so many incredible, enriching opportunities and joyful experiences for which I am deeply thankful. But in life, the bitter often comes with the sweet. There were hard parts: getting up early every day, being so cold so often, having muscles aches and being away from family. It was difficult to have motion sickness since age 8 and to travel very uncomfortably. I had an obstacle to overcome when I had strep throat during the 1968 Olympics and was not able to take medicine because of the drug testing. But I was determined to be in the Olympics. I ended up very sick and delirious with fever after the Olympics. It was hard skating on intense exhibition tours with what was thought to be severe bronchitis, though I wanted so much to skate and was not about to go home. The emotional lows that corresponded to the extreme emotional highs were a part of training and competition. I didn't enjoy developing exercise-induced asthma at the height of my career after suffering from strep throat, pneumonia and pleurisy. I felt crushed when I realized that the medical treatment for my exercise-induced asthma caused more of a negative reaction from my body than the condition itself. When I had come home from Ice Follies to get my condition fixed so I could skate, I had no idea my body would not respond as I wanted. One of my favorite posters says: "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade."

Through the joys and difficulties, Jesus Christ has been my stability. He has a plan for my life and it certainly included skating. The faith that my family introduced me to through regular church attendance has been what ultimately enabled me to focus on the good and persevere through the unpleasant things. My faith in Christ, knowing that the loving God can take even broken dreams and make something beautiful in His time, has been the hope of my life. This faith was a foundation of my skating.

Let me tell you a story. A few weeks before I competed in the 1972 Olympics, I appeared on the cover of Newsweek Magazine as a Gold medal hopeful. My life to this point, including all the effort and sacrifice of my

family and coach, as well as my personal dreams and ambitions for self, country and God, were wrapped up in this competition. I was devastated when I found myself in 4th place after the school figures with no possibility to win the gold medal. That day I argued with God as I lay weeping in my Olympic village apartment.

Somehow, through my broken dreams, a thought came into my mind, that if I couldn't win, then all I could do was to finish the competition and decide to dedicate my free-skating to show God's love to all who watched. A medal no longer mattered. Somehow, God heard my cries and answered a girl's prayers in ways I could not have imagined.

I fell on a flying sit spin, which I had never missed before, even in practice. Because of the way I had been trained, and the purpose that was in my heart, I was still smiling when I was sitting on the ice. That performance did earn me the bronze medal, but even more, that night I began an incredible relationship with the nation of Japan that has lasted 27 years. I was able to go back to Japan to talk about my faith soon after the Olympics. "How could I keep smiling when I fell in the Olympics?", is a question that has always been asked of me in Japan. Fifteen years after I spoke in Japan of my faith, I went back to Japan to skate. A young woman approached me and gave me a note. In the note she told me that when I had spoken of my faith 15 years earlier, she had wanted to take her own life. After hearing about the hope in Christ that I had when I fell in the Olympics, she decided to take that hope for her own and continue her life. That reward is one that is eternal; a reward that was given.

One of the foundations of our free nation is faith in this Almighty God, Who is bigger than ourselves, or any situation. He is the One Who put the yearning for freedom into the human spirit, and it is He Who directs us towards the loving path of discipline and self-control—or self-government—that allows us to live in that freedom.

I had the gift of being born a free citizen in the United States of America. My success in skating was built upon the foundational element of being born in this country. I didn't have to flee my country to gain freedom of artistic expression, as some had to do during the era in which I skated. I didn't have to fear because I spoke to God.

I had the opportunity to visit some nations which did not allow their people to believe in God or to express that publicly. As a young lady I was amazed, and even depressed, when I was taken on tours of old and beautiful churches which were empty, unused, and explained a way as only great architectural works. God had been shut out, unwelcome; even unspeakable. I was even more depressed when we were taken on an Easter Sunday tour of a place where a bloody revolution had been started. One of the results of that revolution was the expulsion of God from a people rich in heart.

Because of that perspective, it disturbs me greatly to see instances in our nation become more and more frequent where people try to exclude God or create fear of talking about God in public. He has blessed this nation so richly. Why would anyone want to shut Him out? It is upon the principles of this God that this nation's foundation rests.

One of those principles of God is charity. I believe perhaps our nation has been the most charitable nation in the history of the world, and I believe that is because of our foundation of faith and freedom. We have been able to choose how we will earn a living with honor and honesty. And we have been able to freely choose, according to our conscience, how to spend what we earn.

I was not beholden to a government or its ideals that provided my training. My family did not believe that freedom was having everything provided. We all worked very hard and my family was very frugal. But at a point in my skating when I was going to have to quit, the charity of Mr. Walter Williamson as the sponsor of my skating allowed me to continue working to become the best I could be. This kind of charity one can never repay, nor did Mr. Williamson ever expect me to repay his charity to me, though I can pass on what I learned from it. He never exploited me or my name nor did he keep me beholden to him. His charity remained a quiet, unassuming foundation of my ability to learn to be free in my skating.

In this great nation, hard work and charity have been the often unnamed foundation that has helped develop hopes and dreams.

The freedom of our nation allowed my parents to choose a coach who valued discipline and hard work. And Miss Kohout, with incredible charity, freely chose to stop sending bills for lessons as my skating started to blossom.

By God's grace I was the benefactor of the free and charitable spirit of my coach and sponsor. Besides the generosity of Mr. Williamson and Miss Kohout, there was a man and wife, who we had never met, who freely offered to pay for my skates. And some generous people in New York helped me with costumes, as well as street clothes and hair cuts, in order to present myself properly. Professional secretaries freely gave of their time and energy to help with my mail when it became too overwhelming, and my mom tells of her friends and neighbors who would each take a part of my costumes to bead. Friends, family and neighbors often traveled to my competitions for quiet moral support. My ballet teacher, Helen Olson, patiently worked with me for many years, though I had no flexibility and had no promise of dancing. There was a woman from Rockford who donated cowboy hats to go with my choreography to the music of Rodeo. An American soldier on leave in Davos, Switzerland volunteered to shovel snow from the ice a few hours a day so I could practice school figures while training for a World Championship, though the snow did not stop for three weeks. The stories of help and charity are endless—all made possible by freedom.

The freedom to give and receive and to work hard and have the choice of how to use what we earn through our hard work—this freedom, based on self-control and self-government, was a foundation of my skating. Without this freedom and charitable spirit I would not have had the opportunity to develop my skating talent for God and for all those that took part. Ultimately it was God Who gave me this freedom. It was His plan for my life.

Family, faith and freedom—The three deep foundations that supported my skating. The foundational skills of skating allowed me to gain freedom to express the joy God put in my soul. And my desire to express God's love on the ice changed the destiny of one young woman in Japan. God's power and love is all about changed lives, and nations that are renewed, free and civilized.

The foundations of these United States of America have, and can again allow the greatest nation on earth to continue to express what God has put into our national soul and spread that freedom for others to enjoy.

As I learn again the foundations of my skating. I hope you will join me in learning again the foundations of family, faith, and freedom, starting in our own minds, hearts and homes. I want all of our children to inherit a nation where God is not shut out, a strong nation that is free and civilized. I

hope we can rise above the desire to just do things that appeal to our senses, and rebuild a nation that fulfills the yearning of the soul.

May God grant us the will to do so.

To end, I would like to dedicate the ice arena that will carry my name, to all those who have sacrificed so I could learn to be free on the ice; to all those who have sacrificed so our nation can be free, and to God Who has given us the foundations in the Ten commandments and teaches us how to be free without fear of getting hurt. It is these unsung heroes who deserve the honor, and God Who deserves the glory.

Thank you for your kind attention as I have tried to share what the honor you have given me means to me.

IN HONOR OF MR. JOE A. GUERRA

HON. HENRY BONILLA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mr. Joe A. Guerra for his excellence in public service. Mr. Guerra currently serves as the dean of the Laredo City Council and is mayor pro-tempore. Mr. Guerra has been a member of the Laredo City Council for 18 years with his last, and final term ending in 2002. He has served under four distinct administrations, J. C. Martin, Aldo Tatangelo, Saul N. Ramirez, and Elizabeth G. Flores. A true representative of the people, Mr. Guerra was instrumental in the inception of Laredo's citywide paving program, and is a strong supporter for the disadvantaged and elderly.

Jose Antonio Guerra was born on July 9, 1934 in Laredo, TX, to Jose M. and Josefina Valls Guerra. His lineage traces all the way back to the first Guerra who came to the New World from Montana de Castilla, Spain, Jose Guerra Canamar. He is the oldest of nine children, carrying on the legacy of the Guerra family raising and educating eight children, and enjoying the blessing of six grandchildren with his wife of 39 years, Josie Guerra. Joe attended local schools and graduated from Martin High School in 1953, following high school he received his Bachelor of Science degree from Saint Mary's University in San Antonio, TX, in 1957.

Following his college experience, Mr. Guerra returned to Laredo to join his family in the automotive replacement part business. Since 1969, he has been involved in the commercial oil and gas business, and is the owner/operator of a local service station. Not only is he involved in the city council and the local business community, he is also a member of the City/County Government Consolidation Committee which was created to study and establish a metropolitan government, the City of Laredo Water Issues Committee, and the Ad Hoc Insurance Committee.

A member of the Republican Party since 1964, Mr. Guerra attributes his success to the party's ideals and values. He served as Webb County Chairman to the campaign for Governor William P. Clements. He served on the committee working to promote George Bush for President in 1988, and 1992. He also worked diligently to ensure my election as Representative of the 23rd District of Texas. Currently he is working hard for the George W. Bush for President campaign efforts.

Mr. Guerra was asked to lead the "Pledge of Allegiance" at the fourth session of the 2000 Republican National Convention in Philadelphia, which he proudly accepted with honor and dignity.

Mr. Guerra has made great contributions to society as a public servant. His commitment and dedication to his community are evident in the dynamic growth and development the city of Laredo has recently experienced. I want to send sincere thanks and best wishes to him, his wife Josie and the entire family for exceptional service.

SPEECH OF DEPUTY SECRETARY
OF DEFENSE, RUDY DE LEON

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I wish to submit into the record a speech by Deputy Secretary of Defense Rudy de Leon. This speech takes a look at the state of America's military, its accomplishments over the last decade, its challenges in recruiting and retaining the best people, and the realities we face in building the next generation of our fighting force.

Perhaps most importantly, Secretary de Leon does a superb job of illustrating the success that can come from Congress and the Administration working together. In the areas of defense and foreign policy, we must never divert from our traditional approach: that politics must stop at the water's edge.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that we will never deviate from that wisdom. Over the last eight years, the President and the Congress have come together in the area of defense policy, and the results have been stupendous. I know from my own experiences on the Armed Services Committee how valuable a bipartisan approach is, and I thank Secretary de Leon for articulating the concepts so well.

REMARKS BY DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
RUDY DE LEON, DEFENSE ORIENTATION
CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 4, 2000

Donald Bickle [DOCA President], John Olsen [DOCA Vice President], thank you both for the opportunity to join you today, for your leadership of this outstanding organization and for your service to this nation. John was in the Air Force and Donald was in the Navy during both the Second World War and Korea. We are grateful to you both. Members of the Board, members of DOCA and spouses, ladies and gentlemen.

First, allow me to begin with two simple words to every one of you. Thank you. Most of you will recall a time not so long ago when virtually every American had a family member or a friend in uniform and when what Tom Brokaw calls the Greatest Generation shared the lessons of their lives with the generations that followed.

Today, in an era when the military is smaller and less visible in our society, you—the members of that Greatest Generation—have been a bridge like no other. As informed observers with experience and insights into the military, and as respected and powerful voices within your communities, you have been in a unique position to help the nation understand the sacrifices and needs of our sons and daughters in uniform. And that is why I wanted to speak to you today.

I thought I might begin this morning by painting two pictures, pulled directly from recent headlines and world events, that capture a fundamental truth of our time.

The first picture is of the Former Republic of Yugoslavia. It is a picture of an entire people standing up and speaking out, of workers putting down their tools and walking out of their factories, of truckers and taxi drivers blockading roads, and of tens of thousands of average citizens taking to the streets to demand that their votes be counted and that the dictator who brought such misery and death to an entire region be ousted. And as this drama unfolds, the world hopes that a long, bloody chapter in the history of Europe might perhaps be coming to an end.

The second picture is from a world away on the Korean Peninsula. It is a picture of the leaders of North and South meeting for the first time and of a historic ceremony to cut through the DMZ—the world's most fortified border—with a reopened railway and a historic highway along which trade will travel. It is a picture of families reuniting in tearful embraces after a half-century of separation and of North and South Korean athletes marching into the Olympic stadium in Sydney under a common flag for the first time. And as this drama unfolds, the world hopes that a long, sad chapter of division in Asia might perhaps be coming to an end.

As different as these two pictures are, as distinct as the histories that have propelled these two nations to this epic moment, they share a common thread. Both would have been impossible without the presence, the persistence, and the determination of the United States Armed Forces.

So there's no more fitting time than now to consider how we reached this moment and to consider the great questions that will continue to face our nation in the future. What should our role be in the 21st Century? Is America's military ready? And how can we ensure that our forces can meet the immediate crises of today while at the same time, modernizing to meet the emerging threats of tomorrow?

These are valid and profound questions for our nation. They demand thoughtful and honest answers. When it comes to America's Armed Forces, we need a candid and comprehensive portrait of the state of our military. And that is what I want to discuss with you this afternoon.

Military readiness is a function of many factors, including the overall level of defense spending; the quality and quantity of those we recruit and retain; the capabilities of their equipment; and, finally, their ability to fulfill the missions we ask of them. To understand each of these is to understand the state of America's military at the dawn of the 21st Century.

First, there is the spending this nation devotes to our men and women in uniform. I think if we look over our shoulders at the past decade, we see that there have been several great revolutions that have had a tremendous impact on our country and the world at large.

There is the revolution in global affairs, most notably the collapse of the Soviet Union. With all the benefits of the Cold War's end came the burdens of being the world's sole superpower. As General [Hugh] Shelton [Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff] outlined to you this morning, soon we had fewer military personnel facing more missions, combining to levy unprecedented demands on our military men and women.

Then there is the revolution in technology with its daily digital leaps that are trans-

forming everything from how we communicate, to how we learn, to how we understand our universe. As Secretary [of Defense William] Cohen has said, information can indeed be the great equalizer, placing enormous power in the hands of the common citizen or consumer. At the same time, information can also be the great destabilizer, placing enormous and deadly power in the hands of those who wish us harm. And so we now also face the prospect of hackers launching daily assaults on our defense systems and our critical infrastructure.

At the same time, there has been a revolution in demographics. Those born between 1965 and 1979—the so-called "Generation X"—comprise one of the smallest groups of 18-22 year olds, and, therefore, the smallest pool of potential recruits, since we started the All Volunteer Force in the 1970s. While the next wave—so-called "Generation Y"—is considerably larger, it won't start having a major impact on recruiting until at least 2003.

And then there is the revolution in our domestic financial affairs. We have balanced the budget and have eliminated deficits as a drain on our national security. Contrary to conventional wisdom, the decline in military spending did not start with the end of the Cold War. Rather, it started several years before with efforts to reduce the deficit—specifically the Gramm-Rudman Deficit Reduction Act—in the late 1980s.

Ten years ago when I was staff director of the House Armed Service Committee, and eight years ago when I entered the Pentagon, the overwhelming reality was the enormous budget deficit that hung over our heads. Few dared even think about real growth in spending or investment.

Today, we have achieved a sea-change in our financial affairs. Because of hard economic decisions and deficit reduction, and because of the roaring economy, these decisions helped to unleash, those record deficits have now turned into record surpluses.

That surplus has now allowed us to do something many through unlikely, if not impossible, even only a few years ago. With the President and Secretary of Defense working with the Congress, we are now making new investments in our military men and women totaling some \$180 billion in just the last two years—the largest sustained increase in defense spending in fifteen years.

Consider the second measure by which to measure readiness—the quality and quantity of those we recruit and retain. The dynamic economy is pulling away many potential recruits and many of our highly skilled people. So we faced the twin challenges of too many people leaving the force and too few people entering the force.

That's why a significant part of that \$180 billion increase in defense spending is going toward dramatic improvements in quality of life. With respect to pay, all our men and women have now received the largest pay raise since the early 1980s. Others with special skills and many in their mid-careers have received additional raises and bonuses on top of that, some as much as 5 percent more.

With respect to benefits, we have made dramatic changes. We have fixed and improved military retirement, restoring benefits so our people can once again retire with 50 percent of their pay after 20 years of service and have a powerful incentive to stay in the force longer.

With respect to housing, we're making progress as well. I know that some of you visited Travis Air Force Base in August, where you saw substandard housing in an area where the basic housing allowance we

provide our forces sometimes isn't enough to match the high cost of living. Well, we've modified the allowance to better reflect the actual cost of off-base housing. And now we're making a truly historic change. This year, we are going to reduce from 19 percent to 15 percent what many of our people pay out of pocket for off-base housing. Within five years, we plan to eliminate those expenses entirely and we're going to devote \$3 billion to do it.

With respect to health care, we have made, and will continue to make, improvements in an area that consistently ranks among the top concerns of our forces and their families. I know that in March some of you visited Fort Sam Houston in Texas, home to the U.S. Army Medical Command. Our TRICARE health system is now fully operational in the continental United

But just like the nation as a whole, we're grappling with sky-rocketing health care costs and a growing population of older Americans—our retired veterans. So Congress is about to pass—with the Administration's support—an expansion of a pharmacy benefit so that our military retirees can afford the cost of their prescription drugs. Health care will continue to be a hard issue, but we will continue to work hard with Congress in keep faith with our retired veterans who served their country so nobly. And Secretary Cohen and particularly General Shelton, continue to work with Congress in this area.

In many ways our force is only as strong as the families behind it. And because so many of our personnel are also parents, we've also devoted tremendous time and attention to ensuring strong military families. As a result, our schools recently led the nation in a national survey on writing, with our overseas schools coming in second to only one state, and our stateside schools coming in year. In recent years, students in our schools have scored well above the national average at all grade levels and in all subjects.

At the same time, by adding \$190 million to child care programs over the past six years, we now have a child care system that has been described by many, including the New York Times, as "a model for the nation."

Thanks to all these efforts to improve quality life, we're now witnessing some important improvements in retention. However, it's not only the fundamental rewards that keep our people in uniform, it's the personal reward of doing the job they were trained to do. In fact, those soldiers serving in places like the Balkans have some of the highest re-enlistment rates in our armed forces. The services have already worked to relieve the stress of current operations. In the future, our challenge will be to ensure that the stress on our forces and their families doesn't turn that motivation to serve into a motivation to leave.

We want our forces to stay because they by almost every measure, the quality of our men and women is higher than it's ever been. With more of the force staying in the service for longer than 10 years, they are more experienced than ever. With more high school diplomas and more advanced degrees to their name, they are more educated than ever. So while very real challenges remain in keeping quality people, America needs to know what General Shelton told the U.S. Senate last week and perhaps again to you today. He said, "In my 37 years in uniform, I have never been around better soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines."

Our efforts to improve quality of life have also improved recruiting. In addition to the demographic revolution and lure of the private sector I mentioned, the causes [of our recruiting challenge] are many. They include the ever-increasing value of a college education and the ever-increasing availability of tuition assistance that has now made college available to virtually every high school graduate who wants to attend.

So what did we do when we wanted to recruit more young people? We put more recruiters on the streets. We created higher bonuses for enlistment. We increased educational incentives. And we tailored advertising and more spending to reach out to young people.

As a result, we're now seeing a real turnaround in recruitment. Just last week, the Army enlisted its 80,000th soldier for the fiscal year ending September. Shortfalls indeed remain in some areas like naval flight officers and computer specialists. But for the first time in three years, every service not only met their active duty recruiting goal, they exceeded them, and not only in terms of quantity, but in terms of quality as well. For example, over 90% of our recruits hold high school diplomas, much higher than the national average. So while challenges remain, America needs to know that we're still recruiting the best and brightest this nation has to offer.

Of course, just as important as the quality of our men and women, is the third measure of readiness—the quality of their equipment. The end of the Cold War was a time of transition for our force. But by 1997 we knew that a 13-year decline in procurement spending would have to end. So we ended it. As General Shelton noted to you this morning, this year we achieved our \$60 billion in annual funding for the new weapons, tools and technologies our warriors need. Over the next five years we plan to increase that to \$70 billion. And in the years beyond, building the advanced force of the future means that procurement will have to remain a national priority.

That's why we are investing in the next generation of aircraft. We're investing \$38 billion for the revolutionary V-22 Osprey that takes off and lands like a helicopter but flies like an airplane, allowing our forces to be more mobile. We're investing \$45 billion for the massive C-17 transport that carries more cargo to less accessible places, like those airfields in Albania during the air war over Kosovo. We're investing \$62 billion for the F-22 that will ensure our supremacy of the skies for decades to come. And over the long-term, we're investing in our largest acquisition program, the Joint Strike Fighter.

America needs to know that all this investment is fueling an unprecedented Revolution in Military Affairs. Indeed, it's not enough to spend more, we also have to spend smarter. And we're doing both.

The Navy is improving the capabilities of its ships and aircraft, increasing their striking power by tying them together with the most sophisticated technologies.

The Air Force is transforming itself into an expeditionary force and—as the world saw in Kosovo—making greater use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles that reduce the risk to pilots and increase our intelligence and reconnaissance capabilities.

The Marines are revolutionizing their capabilities by honing their skills in urban warfare.

And, of course, the Army has embarked on a historic transformation to dramatically enhance the speed, mobility, and firepower of our soldiers. That's why we worked with Congress to secure more than \$7 billion for the next four years to propel that transformation, including more than \$4 billion for

Interim Armored Vehicles that will be more agile and lethal.

America needs to know that we're also transforming the Defense Department to better support this new military. We created the Joint Forces command in Norfolk to improve the ability of the services to operate together and to experiment with the most advanced technologies and tactics. We created a Defense Threat Reduction Agency to pull together our counter-proliferation efforts. We created a special task force to advise and assist communities should a chemical or biological weapon ever be used on American soil. And we created another task force to defend our computer systems as part of our normal warfighting mission. As different as all these efforts may be, the result is the same—our men and women will be safer and our military will be stronger.

I've mentioned many of the investments we're making in our military. But I would suggest that just as important as what we should be spending is what we should not be spending. Consider the money lost to inefficiencies within the Defense Department itself. That's why we began a Defense Reform Initiative that is now saving us tens of billions of dollars.

Consider the money wasted on excess infrastructure. As a result of the four rounds of base realignment and closure to date, we expect to save more than \$25 billion by the year 2003. Those of you who visited Kelly Air Force Base in March know how base closure, if done right, can mean the opening of new prosperity. The country and the Congress need to know that we can't build a lean, agile 21st Century military if it's dragged down by an oversized, outdated 20th Century infrastructure. The country and the Congress need to know that two more rounds of BRAC would save us \$3 billion a year, billions that could be better spent on our forces and their families.

Which brings me to the fourth and final measure of readiness I want to address—and perhaps the most important of all—the ability of our men and women to complete the missions we ask of them. As you know from your visits to bases and installations around the country, and as the Joint Chiefs told Congress last week, and which I believe General Shelton reiterated to you this morning, our front-line units—the first to fight in the event of a conflict on the Korean Peninsula or in the Persian Gulf and the Balkans—are capable. Our forces can fulfill our strategy of fighting two major theater wars. And in the future, we should experience an increasing trend in readiness.

And so if the question is asked, "Is America's military ready if we call?" We need only look to the times when we have called them.

Those of you who went to Guatemala last year know that when Hurricane Mitch ripped across Central America, America's military was ready. As General [Charlie] Wilhelm [then Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Southern Command] told you, the millions of tons of food and supplies that U.S. forces flew in and gave out saved countless lives and helped to literally rebuild entire regions from the ground up.

When Slobodan Milosevic unleashed a wave of terror in Kosovo last year, America's military was ready. We had soldiers in neighboring countries preventing a wider war and airlifting tons of food and supplies to save thousands of Kosovar refugees. We had sailors and marines on ships and submarines in the Adriatic, and naval aviators flying into those dangerous Balkan skies. And we had airmen engaging in the most precise campaign in the history of air power. They conducted the vast majority of those 38,000 NATO sorties. They took to the skies for 78

days with only two planes lost and not a single combat casualty. And while that record was not achieved without stress on certain assets, that is a historic achievement of which our forces and the American people should be enormously proud.

Indeed, the true measure of America's military is the job they do every day. In short, America needs to know that the U.S. Armed Forces are the best trained, best educated, best led, most respected and finest fighting force the world has ever seen.

So in closing, I want to recite a page from America's past that I believe points the way to ensuring our military strength in the future. Half a century ago, this nation stood at the hinge of history, an unprecedented time of both promise and peril. There was the promise, our victory in the Second World War. But there was also the peril, a dawning Cold War. And America's very survival demanded that we think anew and act anew. And so to navigate the shoals of the century that lay ahead, Arthur Vandenberg, a Republican Senator from Michigan, joined with Harry Truman, a Democratic President from Missouri, and the nation came together around a common foreign and defense policy to defend freedom and to create a Marshall Plan and an alliance called NATO that would eventually win the Cold War.

Today, in the long wake of our triumph in that long struggle, America again stands at the hinge of history. Again there is the promise, of the world's sole economic and military superpower. Again there is the peril, the new threats of this new century. And to chart the nation's course in our time, William Cohen, a Republican Senator from Maine, joined with Bill Clinton, a Democratic President from Arkansas, to help restore a spirit of bi-partisanship to defense policy and to ensure that when it comes to our men and women in uniform, politics does indeed stop at the water's edge.

Ladies and gentlemen, in recent years we have recognized that truth. We have worked with Congress to support and strengthen our military. We have upheld our sacred pledge to care for America's sons and daughters who wear this nation's uniform. That is the message I wanted to bring to you today. That is the message I hope you carry back to your communities and the country. Thank you very much.

HONORING THE GRAND OLE OPRY IN NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE ON THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, today I honor a sacred historic institution, the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tennessee, on the occasion of its 75th Anniversary as the longest continuously running live radio show in the world. The Opry and its colorful cast of characters are known and loved by individuals across the globe.

As a native Nashvillian, born and reared in Music City USA, I truly appreciate the significance of country music and its influence on so many people. Country music and its cousins, bluegrass, folk, gospel, blues and rockabilly, truly have captured the heart and soul of our

great nation, offering songs that spring from the fabric of America. Country lyrics espouse our history, our faith in God, our love of family, and our appreciation for the value of freedom and hard work. With these melodies and themes, country music appeals to listeners of all ages and from all walks of life.

To honor and highlight the significance of country music, in 1990, I sponsored and passed legislation designating October as Country Music Month. Now Country Music Month and Country Music Week are nationally recognized events each year, celebrated by millions of individuals.

The Opry has inspired a country music fan fair phenomenon; been the focus of a theme park, hotel complex, television networks, magazines, and movies; infused the tourism industry in Tennessee; and given us an incredible amount of memorable music. Yet, the Opry's beginnings were humble.

In 1925, the "solemn old judge" George D. Hay moved from Chicago's WLS Barn Dance to Nashville, where he began broadcasting and hosting the show that would later become the Grand Ole Opry. Hay eventually would coin the phrase, "Grand Ole Opry" about the program, instantly giving it a name that would endure forever. With WSM's strong 100,000-watt clear channel signal, the Opry could be heard for hundreds of miles across the United States by thousands of people. As the show brought performers of traditional music to the stage, a new genre of music was officially born—country music.

Those early 1920s Opry performers included mainly instrumental talents such as banjo player Uncle Dave Macon and harmonica player Deford Bailey. In the 1930s and 40s, vocalists such as the "King of Country Music" Roy Acuff, Ernest Tubb, Hank Williams, and Bill Monroe all took the stage, as did comedienne Minnie Pearl.

As the years passed, the talent pool grew and the NBC Network picked up the show. Such big names as Patsy Cline, Flatt and Scruggs, Hank Snow, Hawkshaw Hawkins, Jim Reeves, Red Foley, Marty Robbins, Martha Carson, Kitty Wells, Johnny Wright, Bill Anderson, Connie Smith, Dolly Parton, Porer Wagoner, Garth Brooks, Pam Tillis, Trisha Yearwood, and Alison Krauss all have called the Opry stage home. These artists represent just a fraction of the bright and talented performers to grace the stage since its inception, whether at the War Memorial Auditorium, the Ryman Auditorium, or the Grand Ole Opry House of today.

My family has enjoyed an ongoing relationship with the Grand Ole Opry over the years. In fact my father, Governor Frank Clement, enjoyed strong friendships with many Opry members, often enlisting their talents for political rallies across the state. In addition, Governor Clement traveled to Washington and testified on behalf of country music when its lyrics were under fire by Congress in the 1950s.

Like any sacred institution, the Opry has endured sorrow, grief, and loss. It has faced adversity and strain. There have been joyous times and laughter. But the Opry has endured throughout each season. In the 1980s, George Jones touched our hearts as he sang, "Who's Gonna Fill Their Shoes" about the legacy of country music and its legendary artists. Jones singled out performers such as Lefty Frizzell, Merle Haggard, Elvis Presley, Carl Perkins,

Willie Nelson, and Roy Acuff in the tune. He also mentioned the Opry in the song lyrics, inspiring a new generation of country artists to carry the torch. I'd particularly like to recognize the contributions of Ricky Skaggs, Marty Stuart, and WSM announcer Eddie Stubbs for promoting the cause of traditional music and educating the next generation about our rich heritage in this new millennium.

Throughout the years the Opry and its cast of performers, announcers, advertisers, and musicians have inspired and entertained us each Friday and Saturday night. For these valued contributions and cherished memories we are forever grateful to the Opry and those who have called it "home." We salute the Grand Ole Opry for 75 wonderful years and offer our sincerest wishes for continuous success in the years to come.

Thank you and God bless you.

HONORING OLYMPIC GOLD MEDAL WINNER STACY DRAGILA

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize a native of my congressional district who has brought glory and honor to herself, her family, and her fellow Americans. I wish to congratulate Stacy Dragila on recently winning the gold medal in the first-ever Olympic Women's Pole Vault Competition.

Dragila grew up in Auburn, California, where she competed in goat roping as a child. As a heptathlete during her years on Placer High School's track and field team, she had little idea that she would one day stand atop the Olympic medals podium as a pole vault champion. You see, when she was in high school, the pole vault was an event in which only male competitors took part.

As the women's pole vault has finally taken root in the United States, Stacy has quickly established herself as the premier athlete in her field. Each time she reaches a new personal best mark, she rewrites the world record. In fact, while competing on her home turf at this summer's U.S. Olympic Trials in Sacramento, she set the current world record 15'2¼". By continually raising the bar, Stacy has forced her competitors to push their own limits as well. This resulted in an exciting duel at this month's Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia. In the end, Dragila brought home the gold with a vault of 15'1".

At the age of 29, Stacy Dragila stands as an Olympic champion and as an American hero. Furthermore, as a pioneer in a new sport, she stands as a role model for those young women who will strive to match her achievements on the field. Perhaps most importantly, however, she is, by all accounts, a world-class person as well as a world-class athlete. Today, I proudly join with Americans everywhere in saluting gold medalist Stacy Dragila.

INDIAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD STOP ITS STATE TERRORISM

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on September 27, a letter from the Council of Khalistan was published in the Washington Times. It details the propaganda spread by the Indian government to discredit its opponents.

That propaganda is necessary for the Indian government to cover up the atrocities and state terrorism against Christians, Sikhs, and other minorities. Former Indian cabinet minister R.L. Bhatia admitted in 1995 that the Indian government is spending "large sums of money" to spread this propaganda and influence affairs in the United States.

Earlier this month, militant Hindu fundamentalists attacked the home of a priest. They beat him and his servant. The servant was beaten so badly that he died. Unfortunately, this kind of thing is not unusual. It is just the latest in a series of atrocities carried out by organizations under the umbrella of the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS), the parent organization of the ruling BJP. While Prime Minister Vajpayee was in New York during his recent visit to the U.S., he said, "I will always be a Swayamsewak."

Last week, former Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar said that there is no difference between the ruling BJP and the supposedly secular Congress Party. Unfortunately, from the point of view of the minorities in India, it is true. There is no difference. Whoever is in power, the repression continues. India has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, over 200,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947, over 70,000 Kashmiri Muslims since 1988, and tens of thousands of Dalit "untouchables" and other minorities. Thousands of Sikhs and other minorities are in illegal detention without charge or trial simply because they are opposed to the government, or because they are members of a minority.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for India to stop its state terrorism against the minorities within its borders. We must stop American aid to India and declare our support for self-determination for the people of Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagalim, and the other nations seeking their freedom, in the form of a free and fair democratic plebiscite. These measures are the only ones we can take that will help to bring real freedom and democracy to the people of South Asia. I submit the following article into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From the Washington Times, Sept. 27, 2000]

NO MILITANTS IN THE COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN

Manpreet Singh Nibber's Sept. 16 letter, "India human rights criticism from unreliable source?" is so full of disinformation that he must be fronting for the Indian Embassy in its effort to confuse the American people.

Mr. Nibber, who is a member of the Punjab Welfare Council of the USA, does not address any of the facts we brought up in our last letter. Instead, he spreads Indian disinformation about the Council of Khalistan and its origins. He knows there are no "militants" involved in the council. We consistently support the liberation of Khalistan, the Sikh homeland that declared its independence from India on Oct. 7, 1987,

by democratic, nonviolent means, through the Sikh tradition of "Shantmai morcha," or peaceful agitation.

The Indian Embassy has interfered in American elections, calling for the re-election of former Sen. Larry Pressler and attempting to damage the re-election campaign of Sen. Robert Torricelli. A few years ago, the Indian Embassy was caught giving illegal campaign donations to members of Congress through an immigration lawyer named Lalit Gadhia, who pleaded guilty to the scheme in federal court.

There are many other Gadhias throughout this country. Former Indian cabinet minister R.L. Bhatia admitted in a 1995 news conference that the Indian government is spending "large sums of money" through the embassy to influence American politics. But what is that money defending?

On Sept. 8, militant Hindus attacked the home of a priest and beat the priest and his servant. The servant was so severely beaten that he died of the injuries. On Aug. 25, News stories reported that militant Hindu nationalists kidnapped and tortured a priest in Gujarat, then paraded him naked through town. This attack was part of a wave of terror against Christians since Christmas 1998.

Incidents have included the murder of priests, the rape of nuns and the burning to death of nuns and the burning to death of a missionary and his two sons in their van by members of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sang (RSS), the parent organization of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party. Schools and prayer halls have been attacked and destroyed. The individuals who raped the nuns were described by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, a militant organization within the RSS, as "patriotic youth." The RSS was founded in support of fascism.

In March, 35 Sikhs were murdered in the village of Chithi Singh-pora in Kashmir. Two extensive independent investigations, one conducted by the Movement Against State Repression and the Punjab Human Rights Organization and another conducted by the Ludhiana-based International Human Rights Organization, proved that the Indian government was responsible for this massacre.

The Indian government has murdered more than 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, according to figures published in Inderjit Singh Jaijee's "The Politics of Genocide." India also has killed more than 200,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947, more than 70,000 Kashmiri Muslims since 1988 and tens of thousands of other minorities. Amnesty International reports that thousands of political prisoners are being held without charge or trial in "the world's largest democracy."

India is hostile to the United States. It votes against America at the United Nations more often than any country except Cuba.

In May 1999, the Indian Express reported that Indian Defense Minister George Fernandes led a meeting with Cuba, China, Iraq, Serbia, Russia and Libya to construct a security alliance "to stop the U.S."

India openly supported the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan. Its nuclear weapons test started the nuclear arms race in South Asia. It refuses to allow the Sikhs, Kashmiris, Christians and other minority nations seeking their freedom to decide their political future in a free and fair vote, the democratic way.

America must not accept this kind of brutality and tyranny from a government that claims to be democratic. We must cut off aid and trade to India and support a free and fair plebiscite to ensure human rights and self-determination for Khalistan, Christian Nagalim, Kashmir and all the minority nations and peoples living under Indian rule.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FLOYD SPENCE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 503, 504 and 505, I was not present as I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all three.

A LETTER TO MY SONS

HON. MARSHALL "MARK" SANFORD

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, in the final days of the 106th Congress and my time here in the House, I rise today to pass these words on to my sons.

October 5, 2000.

DEAR MARSHALL, LANDON, BOLTON AND BLAKE: I wanted to write this letter so that maybe in twenty years or maybe after I have died you could look it up and think about how much your Dad loves you. I write this letter as much as anything because I feel the need to pause and praise each of you and to say how proud I am of you and how much, again, I love you.

That's needed because over the last seven years all you have known is a world tied to politics. For each of the words I spoke into the record on the House floor, or in Committee, I couldn't expand time and also fill those minutes and hours with words to each of you. Each of the days I spent in Washington were days I couldn't spend with you. Each of the evenings I spent at political events were evenings I couldn't spend with you. I apologize for our time apart. Each of you as young men will one day discover your calling—why God put you here—and in turn have to struggle in balancing the different responsibilities each of you will embrace.

I have felt that my job over these last seven years was getting to—and being in—Congress. Since I came here I have tried as best I could do what I thought was right, but in all that doing I always thought of each one of you. Here in Washington I never went to bed once without saying prayers with each of you in them.

In the early years it was just Marshall and Landon, and you guys, as little guys, put in far more than your share of parades and political events.

As if yesterday I remember the Hell hole swamp parade and pulling the wagon with Marshall and Landon. In the Summerville parade in the first campaign, to this day I remember Marshall's wild white curls and his little light blue V-neck sweater. I am amazed to look at pictures and see how small Landon was at the start of this process.

I think the last parade with just Marshall and Landon was at the Loris Bog-off. It was cool and I remember your mom and I buying you both swords at a booth alongside the railroad track afterward. I doubt I was that big on the swords, but I am sure your mom well made the point that you earned them, and in case you don't remember the spot—there were men and women in bright blue clothes dancing to country music on a flat-bed trailer just to the left.

Marshall, you have always been great help with your younger brothers, thank you. The way you have carried yourself also makes me proud. Do you remember going with then

Governor Beasley and several security men in a Department of Natural Resources speedboat out to a Navy destroyer in Charleston Harbor? During the commissioning ceremony it was hot and you were not wild about being there, but you put up with it and behaved well. In the same vein do you remember sitting under my chair at the Hwy 61 connector opening. It was hardly a grand event, but you found shade and stayed still and quiet which was no small feat given your age. In these and many other events like them, you showed a maturity well beyond your years. It will carry you far in life.

In the political context of my note, Landon made me proud most recently at the St. Patrick's day parade in North Myrtle Beach. I was pulling a wagon along side you while you walked straight up the yellow line in the middle of the street. In your young man's march you were waving at the several thousand people who lined both sides of the road. In most waves your arm was held at a forty-five degree angle and your palm and hand were straight up as if the tip of a small spear. The whole thing was not easy for you. In fact it was incredibly brave. Blake was in my arms and your two brothers were riding in the wagon and there you were, a reserved boy by nature walking up a street surrounded by strangers—waving to both sides. On the long drive home you started singing some silly song and next thing you know three boys are laughing hysterically in the back of the Suburban. You have the ability to defuse things with laughter.

Bolton—you are a natural born performer. Of all the family members you are the most gifted in surprising people, and not infrequently, making them laugh. You were doing just that winter before last at the Conway parade when you rode in the wagon and chose to throw bags of candy—not the candies! In the same light I remember the words Mary Crixmas, Mary Crixmas, Happy Santa Claus. Last winter I was the Grand Marshall of the Mount Pleasant Christmas parade. Marshall sat to my left, Landon on my right, you were on my lap and with outstretched arms you yelled these words with such enthusiasm that half-way through the parade you couldn't say another word. John McCain asks regularly about you and still talks about your enthusiasm for fishing. I think you are the only four year old to have given the President of the United States a froggy kiss. These days you are into catching butterflies with your hands, but thank you for wearing politics as well as you have.

Blake—you haven't said a whole lot in parades yet, but you haven't had to because with your blonde curls and cute smiles everyone adores you! You are specific in what you want thought, you like to be carried—not to ride on my shoulders like some of your brothers.

The point in these memories, and a thousand others like them, is that we have been through some interesting times together. Your peers have not had to go through what you have. At your young ages you have been exposed to a wide range of people and settings—medicade nursing home visits, trips to the White House, the House that Congress built with Habitat for Humanity, watching the sun rise from a boat moored feet from where the Hunley would rise hours later, feeding special Olympic kids at the Citadel, getting up hours earlier than you would have to go to an event in Myrtle Beach, beach sweeps, and more. In the end I think you will be better for having seen a wide swath of life, but since it involved wear and tear on your bodies this note is here simply to say thank you. Thank you for behaving well, and thank you for putting with it. I am proud of you. You are each unique young men. I love you

and look forward to spending more time with each of you over the years ahead.

Love,

DAD.

P.S. After reading this, one day do an extra something special for your mom. In my absence over the last six years she has changed a lot of diapers and fixed more than her share of dinners for you.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF HERBERT S. BECKER

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that we recognize the accomplishments of a visionary who is set to retire from service to the Congress at the end of this year. Herbert S. Becker has been the Director of the Office of Information Technology Services at the Library of Congress. During his 15 years of leadership, he helped bring about new programs in support of the Congress, the Library, and the nation.

In collaboration with the Congressional Research Service, Mr. Becker created a Capitol-Hill-wide Legislative Information System for better and faster access to legislative resources. He oversaw the successful transition to new technology that made the Library's online card catalog easier for patrons to use. He initiated the development and implementation of new technology to improve archiving at the Congressional Research Service and the U.S. Copyright Office. And he helped create a new financial management system.

But perhaps Mr. Becker's most significant accomplishment was his role in the development of the popular THOMAS website for public access to legislative information. With the advent of THOMAS, any citizen can access detailed and recently updated information about the business of Congress and gain insight into the legislative process.

His vision and the strength of his commitment have clearly facilitated the work of the people's representatives. I know I speak for the entire House when I wish him well in his future endeavors and thank him for his years of service to the American people.

MISSING JOURNALIST IN THE UKRAINE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, it has been almost three weeks since the highly disturbing disappearance of Heorhii Gongadze, a journalist known for his articles exposing corruption in the Ukraine and for playing a prominent role in defending media freedoms. Mr. Gongadze, whose visit to the United States last December included meetings with the Helsinki Commission staff, was publisher of a new Internet newspaper called *Ukrainska Pravda* (meaning Ukrainian Truth), a publication often critical of senior Ukrainian officials and their associates. In fact, shortly before he vanished, Mr. Gongadze had appar-

ently been facing pressure and threats and had complained that police were harassing him and his colleagues at *Ukrainska Pravda*.

Unfortunately, Mr. Gongadze's disappearance takes place in an increasingly unhealthy media environment. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, his disappearance follows several suspect or inconclusive investigations into the suspicious deaths of several Ukrainian journalists over the last few years and the beatings of two journalists following their articles about official corruption this year. This disappearance has occurred within an environment which has made it increasingly difficult for professional journalists to operate, including harassment by tax police, criminal libel prosecutions, the denial of access to state-controlled newsprint and printing presses, and phone calls to editors suggesting that they censor certain stories. Such an atmosphere clearly has a chilling effect on press freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I am encouraged that the Verkhovna Rada—the Ukraine's parliament—has formed a special ad hoc committee to investigate Mr. Gongadze's disappearance. I am also hopeful that the Ukraine's Ministry of Internal Affairs and other law enforcement agencies will conduct a serious, vigorous investigation to solve the case of this missing journalist.

As Chairman of the Helsinki Commission and as someone who has a longstanding interest in the Ukraine, I am deeply disappointed that the Ukraine's relatively positive human rights record has been tarnished by an environment not conducive to the development of a free media. I remain hopeful that the Ukrainian authorities will make every effort to reverse this situation.

HONORING TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY, OCTOBER 10, 2000

HON. JENNIFER DUNN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, as President Chen Shui-bian, Vice President Annette Lu, and the people of the Republic of China prepare to celebrate their National Day on October 10, 2000, I wish to extend my sincere congratulations on their progress.

Since its founding 89 years ago, the Republic of China on Taiwan has attained many remarkable achievements. Their progress ought to be recognized by the United States and emulated by the entire world community. For instance, Taiwan's economy is robust. In June of this year, exports and imports grew nearly 25 percent from the previous year. This growth is due in large part to Taiwan's embrace of the new economy, specifically information and high technologies.

Not only has Taiwan experienced strong economic growth, but Taiwan is also a democracy in the truest sense of the word. Taiwan upholds the freedoms we, as Americans, hold dear, including free elections, free media, and free expression.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan is truly a model of success for many countries in the world. Taiwan deserves our congratulations and our support.

GOVERNOR RIDGE HONORS CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM GOODLING

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following remarks to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on behalf of my good friend and former Member of this body, the current Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Tom Ridge, in honor of the outstanding contributions and dedicated service that Congressman BILL GOODLING has provided to the United States Congress, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the people of the 19th Congressional District.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM GOODLING

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: It gives me great pleasure to join the Pennsylvania delegation to honor Congressman Bill Goodling for his outstanding contributions and dedicated service to the United States Congress, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the people of the 19th Congressional District.

Pennsylvania possesses a rich heritage of great civic and business leaders who have made significant contributions to their communities and the Commonwealth as a whole. Bill's attention and unwavering devotion to the needs and best interests of the constituents and our Commonwealth community aligns him with those who exemplify the founding principles of this great nation.

Adequately serving the needs of Pennsylvania citizens, families and communities relies upon the practical knowledge and personal integrity of those committed to the highest measures of citizenship. As Chairman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce Bill Goodling has consistently demonstrated outstanding leadership that directly reflects his unyielding devotion to ensuring a better quality of life for Pennsylvanians. As a devotee to both family and community, his tireless efforts have ensured south central Pennsylvania's economic stability and leadership as we enter the 21st century. It has been my honor to work with him as both a colleague and as Governor and I have personally witnessed his consistent diligence to the highest levels of personal, professional and civic distinction.

Michele and I extend our best wishes to Bill for much happiness and fulfillment in the future.

TOM RIDGE,

Governor, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF IDALOU FIREFIGHTER DAVID BUTLER

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, today I remember the life of Mr. David Butler, an individual who understood the meaning of dedication and service to his neighbors and his community. On September 19, Mr. Butler was doing what he did best—helping people—when he collapsed and later passed away.

A firefighter with the Idalou, Texas, Volunteer Fire Department for 23 years and Assistant Chief for 10 of those, David gave the ultimate gift of life to save that of another. David,

along with other members of the Idalou and Lorenzo Volunteer Fire Departments, arrived at the scene of a one-vehicle roll-over to find the driver trapped beneath a water truck. In an effort to free the driver, Assistant Chief Butler helped set up air bags to lift the truck off the pavement. Once the bags were inflated, he operated the controls to raise the truck, and the man was soon freed from the wreckage and transported to a local hospital. As firefighters were loading their equipment for the return home, David collapsed never to regain consciousness.

The fire department was an extension of David's family, and he acted as a father to his colleagues just as he did to his own three children. He was the epitome of a family man; an ever-dedicated servant to his family, friends and community. David is a true hero, and through his service, he has made Idalou and our society a better place to live. I would like to extend my most sincere condolences to his wife and children and to all who had the pleasure of working with and knowing him. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

H.R. 2392

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

HON. NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and Ms. Velazquez, I submit the following Joint Statement of Managers relating to The Small Business Innovation Research Program Reauthorization Act of 2000 (H.R. 2392).

JOINT STATEMENT OF MANAGERS FROM THE
COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS REGARDING
H.R. 2392, AS CONSIDERED PURSUANT TO H.
RES. 590

TITLE I

The Small Business Innovation Research Program Reauthorization Act of 2000 (H.R. 2392) was introduced on June 30, 1999, and referred to the House Committees on Small Business and Science. Both Committees held hearings and the House Committee on Small Business reported H.R. 2392 on September 23, 1999 (H. Rept. 106-329). In the interest of moving the bill to the floor of the House of Representatives promptly, the Committee on Science agreed not to exercise its right to report the legislation, provided that the House Committee on Small Business agreed to add the selected portions of the Science Committee version of the legislation, as Sections 8 through 11 of the House floor text of H.R. 2392. H.R. 2392 passed the House without further amendment on September 27. The Science Committee provisions were explained in floor statements by Congressmen Sensenbrenner, Morella, and Mark Udall.

On March 21, 2000, the Senate Committee marked-up H.R. 2392 and on May 10, 2000, reported the bill (S. Rept. 106-289). The Senate Committee struck several of the sections originating from the House Committee on Science and added sections not in the House-passed legislation, including a requirement that Federal agencies with Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) programs report their methodology for calculating their SBIR budgets to the Small Business Administration (SBA) and a program to assist states in the development of small high-technology businesses. Negotiations then

began among the leadership of the Senate and House committees on Small Business and the House Committee on Science (hereinafter referred to as the three committees). The resultant compromise text contains all major House and Senate provisions, some of which have been amended to reflect a compromise position. A section-by-section explanation of the revised text follows. For purposes of this statement, the bill passed by the House of Representatives is referred to as the "House version" and the bill reported by the Senate Committee on Small Business is referred to as the "Senate version."

Section 101. Short Title; Table of Contents. The compromise text uses the Senate short title: "Small Business Innovation Research Program Reauthorization Act of 2000." The table of contents lists the sections in the compromise text.

Section 102. Findings. The House and Senate versions of the findings are very similar. The compromise text uses the House version of the findings.

Section 103. Extension of the SBIR Program. The House version extend the SBIR program for seven years through September 30, 2007. The Senate version extend the program for ten years through September 30, 2010. The compromise text extends the program for eight years through September 30, 2008.

Section 104. Annual Report. The House version provides for the annual report on the SBIR program prepared by the SBA to be sent to the Committee on Science, as well as to the House and Senate Committees on Small Business that currently receive it. The Senate version did not include this section. The compromise text adopts the House language.

Section 105. Third Phase Assistance. The compromise text of this technical amendment is identical to both the House and Senate versions.

Section 106. Report on Programs for Annual Performance Plan. This section requires each agency that participates in the SBIR program to submit to Congress a performance plan consistent with the Government Performance and Results Act. The House and Senate versions have the same intent. The compromise text uses the House version.

Section 107. Output and Outcome Data. Both the House and Senate versions contain sections enabling the collection and maintenance of information from awardees as is necessary to assess the SBIR program. Both the House and Senate versions require the SBA to maintain a public database at SBA containing information on awardees from all SBIR agencies. The Senate version adds paragraphs to the public database section dealing with database identification of businesses or subsidiaries established for the commercial application of SBIR products or services and the inclusion of information regarding mentors and mentoring networks. The House version further requires the SBA to establish and maintain a government database, which is exempt from the Freedom of Information Act and is to be used solely for program evaluation. Outside individuals must sign a non-disclosure agreement before gaining access to the database. The compromise text contains each of these provisions, with certain modifications and clarifications, which are addressed below.

With respect to the public database, the compromise text makes clear that proprietary information, so identified by a small business concern, will not be included in the public database. With respect to the government database, the compromise text clarifies that the inclusion of information in the government database is not to be considered publication for purposes of patent law. The compromise text further permits the SBA to

include in the government database any information received in connection with an SBIR award the SBA Administrator, in conjunction with the SBIR agency program managers, consider to be relevant and appropriate or that the Federal agency considers to be useful to SBIR program evaluation.

With respect to small business reporting for the government database, the compromise text directs that when a small business applies for a second phase award it is required to update information in the government database. If an applicant for a second phase award receives the award, it shall update information in the database concerning the award at the termination of the award period and will be requested to voluntarily update the information annually for an additional period of five years. This reporting procedure is similar to current Department of Defense requirements for the reporting of such information. When sales or additional investment information is related to more than one second phase award is involved, the compromise text permits a small business to apportion the information among the awards in any way it chooses, provided the apportionment is noted on all awards so apportioned.

The three committees understand that receiving complete commercialization data on the SBIR program is difficult, regardless of any reasonable time frame that could be established for the reporting of such data. Commercialization may occur many years following the receipt of a research grant and research from an award, while not directly resulting in a marketable product, may set the groundwork for additional research that leads to such a product. Nevertheless, the three committees believe that the government database will provide useful information for program evaluation.

Section 108. National Research Council Reports. The House version requires the four largest SBIR program agencies to enter into an agreement with the National Research Council (NRC) to conduct a comprehensive study of how the SBIR program has stimulated technological innovation and used small businesses to meet Federal research and development needs and to make recommendations on potential improvements to the program. The Senate version contains no similar provision. The study was designed to answer questions remaining from the House Committees' reviews of these programs and to make sure that a current evaluation of the program is available when the program next comes up for reauthorization.

The compromise text makes several changes to the House text. The compromise text adds the National Science Foundation to the agencies entering the agreement with the NRC and requires the agencies to consult with the SBA in entering such agreement. It also expands on the House version, which requires a review of the quality of SBIR research, to require a comparison of the value of projects conducted under SBIR with those funded by other Federal research and development expenditures. The compromise text further broadens the House version's review of the economic rate of return of the SBIR program to require an evaluation of the economic benefits of the SBIR program, including economic rate of return, and a comparison of the economic benefits of the SBIR program with that of other Federal research and development expenditures. The compromise text allows the NRC to choose an appropriate time-frame for such analysis that results in a fair comparison.

The three committees believe that a comprehensive report on the SBIR program and

its relation to other Federal research expenditures will be useful in program oversight and will provide Congress with an understanding of the effects of extramural Federal research and development funding provided to large and small businesses and universities. The three committees understand, however, that measuring the direct benefits to the nation's economy from the SBIR program and other Federal research expenditures may be difficult to calculate and may not provide a complete portrayal of the benefits achieved by the SBIR program. Accordingly, the legislation requires the NRC also to review the non-economic benefits of the SBIR program, which may include, among other matters, the increase in scientific knowledge that has resulted from the program. The paragraph in the compromise text calling for recommendations remains the same as the House version, except that the bill now asks the NRC to make recommendations, should there be any.

While the study is to be carried out within National Research Council study guidelines and procedures, the compromise text requires the NRC to take the steps necessary to ensure that individuals from the small business community with expertise in the SBIR program are well-represented in the panel established for performing the study and among the peer reviewers of the study. The NRC is to consult with and consider the views of the SBA's Office of Technology and the SBA's Office of Advocacy and to conduct the study in an open manner that makes sure that the views and experiences of small businesses involved in the program are carefully considered in the design and execution of the study. Extension of the SBIR program for eight years rather than the five being contemplated when the House study provision was initially written has necessitated some adjustments in the study. The report is now required three years rather than four years after the date of enactment of the Act and the NRC is to update the report within six years of enactment. The update is intended to bring current, any information from the study relevant to the reauthorization of the SBIR program. It is not intended to be a second full-fledged study. In addition, semiannual progress reports by NRC to the three committees are required.

Section 109. Federal Agency Expenditures for the SBIR Program. The Senate version requires each Federal agency with an SBIR program to provide the SBA with a report describing its methodology for calculating its extramural budget for purposes of SBIR program set-aside and requires the Administrator of the SBA to include an analysis of the methodology from each agency in its annual report to the Congress. The House version has no similar provision. The compromise text follows the Senate text except that it specifies that each agency, rather than the agency's comptroller, shall submit the agency's report to the Administrator. The three committees intend that each agency's methodology include an itemization of each research program that is excluded from the calculation of its extramural budget for SBIR purposes as well as a brief explanation of why the agency feels each excluded program meets a particular exemption.

Section 110. Policy Directive Modifications. The House version includes policy directive modifications in Section 9 and the requirement of a second phase commercial plan in Section 10. The Senate version includes policy directive modifications in Section 6. The Senate version and now the compromise text require the Administrator to make modifications to SBA's policy directives 120 days after the date of enactment rather than the 30 days contained in the House version. The compromise text drops

the House policy directive dealing with awards exceeding statutory dollar amounts and time limits because this flexibility is already being provided administratively. Addressed below is a description of the policy directive modifications contained in the compromise text that were not included in both the Senate version and the House version.

Section 10 of the House version requires the SBA to modify its policy directives to require the small businesses provide a commercial plan with each application for a second-phase award. The Senate version does not contain a similar provision. The compromise text requires the SBA to modify its policy directives to require that a small businesses provide a "succinct commercialization plan for each second phase award moving towards commercialization." The three committees acknowledge that commercialization is a current element of the SBIR program. The statutory definition of SBIR, which is not amended by H.R. 2392, includes "a second phase, to further develop proposals which meet particular program needs, in which awards shall be made based on the scientific and technical merit and feasibility of the proposals, as evidenced by the first phase, considering among other things the proposal's commercial potential * * *", and lists evidence of commercial potential as the small business's commercialization record, private sector funding commitments, SBIR Phase III commitments, and the presence of other indicators of the commercial potential. The three committees do not intend that the addition of a commercialization plan either increase or decrease the emphasis an agency places on the commercialization when reviewing second-phase proposals. Rather, the commercialization plan will give SBIR agencies a means of determining the seriousness with which individual applicants approach commercialization.

The commercialization plan, while concise, should show that the business has thought through both the steps it must take to prepare for the fruits of the SBIR award to enter the commercial marketplace or government procurement and the steps to build business expertise as needed during the SBIR second phase time period. The three committees intend that agencies take into consideration the stage of development of the product or process in deciding whether an appropriate commercialization plan has been submitted. In those instances when at the time of the SBIR Phase II proposal, the grantee cannot identify either a product or process with the potential eventually to enter either the commercial or the government marketplace, no commercialization plan is required.

The compromise text also adds new provisions that were not contained in either the Senate version or the House version. Current law (Section 9(j)(3)(C) of the Small Business Act) requires that the Administrator put in place procedures to ensure, to the extent practicable, that an agency which intends to pursue research, development or production of a technology developed by a small business concern under an SBIR

The three committees are concerned that agencies sometimes provide these follow-on activities to large companies who are in incumbent positions or through contract bundling without written justification or without the statutory required documentation of the impracticability of using the small business for the work. So that the SBA and the Congress can track the extent of this problem, the compromise text requires agencies to record and report each such occurrence and to describe in writing why it is impracticable to provide the research project to the original SBIR company. Additionally, the compromise text directs the SBA to develop

policy directives to implement the new subsection (v), Simplified Reporting Requirements. This subsection requires that the directives regarding collection of data be designated to minimize the burden on small businesses; to permit the updating the database by electronic means; and to use standardized procedures for the collection and reporting of data.

Section 103(a)(2) of P.L. 102-564, which reauthorized the SBIR program in 1992, added language to the description of a third phase award which made it clear that the third phase is intended to be a logical conclusion of research projects selected through competitive procedures in phases one and two. The Report of the House Committee on Small Business (H. Rpt. 102-554, Pt. I) provides that the purpose of that clarification was to indicate the Committee's intent that an agency which wishes to fund an SBIR project in phase three (with non-SBIR monies) or enter into a follow-on procurement contract with an SBIR company, need not conduct another competition in order to satisfy the Federal Competition in Contracting Act (CICA). Rather by phase three the project has survived two competitions and thus has already satisfied the requirements of CICA, set forth in section 2302(2)(E) of that Act, as they apply to the SBIR program. As there has been confusion among SBIR agencies regarding the intent of this change, the three committees reemphasized the intent initially set forth in H. Rpt. 102-554, Pt. 1, including the clarification that follow-on phase III procurement contracts with an SBIR company may include procurement of products, services, research, or any combination intended for use by the Federal government.

Section 111. Federal and State Technology Partnership Program. This section establishes the FAST program from the Senate version, which is a competitive matching grant program to encourage states to assist in the development of high-technology businesses. The House version does not contain a similar provision. The most significant changes from the Senate version is the compromise text that are an extension of the maximum duration of awards from three years to five years and the lowering of the matching requirement for funds assisting businesses in low income areas to 50 cents per federal dollar, as advocated by Ranking Member Velazquez of the House Small Business Committee. The compromise text combines the definitions found in the Senate version of this section and the mentoring networks section.

Section 112. Mentoring Networks. The Senate version sets forth criteria for mentoring networks that organizations are encouraged to establish with matching funds from the FAST program and creates a database of small businesses willing to act as mentors. The compromise text, except for relocating the program definitions to Section 111, is the same as the Senate text. The House version did not contain a similar provision.

Section 113. Simplified Reporting Requirements. This section is not in either the House or the Senate versions. It requires the SBA Administrator to work with SBIR program agencies on standardizing SBIR reporting requirements with the ultimate goal of making the SBA's SBIR database more user friendly. This provision requires the SBA to consider the needs of each agency when establishing and maintaining the database. Additionally, it requires the SBA to take measures to reduce the administrative burden on SBIR program participants whenever possible including, for example, permitting updating by electronic means.

Section 114. Rural Outreach Program Extension. This provision, which was not in either House or Senate versions, extends the life and authorization for appropriations for the Rural Outreach Program of the Small Business Administration for four additional years through fiscal year 2005. It is the intent of the three committees that this program be evaluated on the same schedule and in the same manner as the FAST program. Among other things, the evaluation should examine the extent to which the programs complement or duplicate each other. The evaluation should also include recommendations for improvement to the program, if any.

TITLE II

The purpose of Title II is to amend the general business loan program at the Small Business Administration, commonly known as the 7(a) loan program. Title II of H.R. 2392 contains a variety of technical and substantive changes to improve the program and correct problems brought to the Committee's attention through the oversight process and originally passed by the House as H.R. 2616.

Title II will increase the maximum guarantee amount of a 7(a) loan to \$1 million from the current limit of \$750,000 in order to keep pace with inflation. The guarantee amount was last increased in 1988. It also maintains a cap prohibiting loans with a gross amount in excess of \$2 million.

The bill will also remove a provision which reduced SBA's liability for accrued interest on defaulted loans since the provision's intended savings failed to materialize.

Title II also includes three changes designed to encourage the making of smaller loans. The guarantee rate will be expanded to 85 percent from loans under \$100,000 to loans under \$150,000. Likewise, the two percent guarantee fee will now apply to loans up to \$150,000, which represent a significant savings for these small borrowers.

Finally, for small loans, Title II of H.R. 2392 includes a provision allowing lenders to retain one quarter of the guarantee fee on loans under \$150,000 as an incentive to make these loans.

The last part of Title II modifies an SBA regulatory restriction which prohibit loans for passive investment. Title II will permit the financing of projects where no more than 20 percent of a business location will be rented out provided the small business borrower in question occupies at least 60 percent of the business space.

Section 201. Short Title.

Section 202. Levels of Participation. Increases the guarantee percentage on loans of \$150,000 or less to 85 percent. The current guarantee level of 80 percent extends only to loans of \$100,000 or less. This guarantee increase is one of the changes proposed to encourage the availability of smaller loans.

Section 203. Loan Amounts. This provision will increase the maximum guarantee amount of \$1 million. The maximum gross loan amount will be capped at \$2 million. The language would prohibit SBA from placing a guarantee on any loan over \$2 million regardless of the guaranteed amount. Consequently, the largest loan available would be a \$2 million loan with a 50 percent guarantee.

The largest loan available at the maximum guarantee rate of 75 percent would be \$1,333,333. The cap on loans over \$2 million will effectively remove a number of large loans that have been made with only a minimal guarantee, loans which use up loan authority at a disproportionate rate. In 1998, roughly thirty loans over \$2 million were made.

Section 204. Interest on defaulted loans. This will remove the provision that reduced

SBA's liability for accrued interest on defaulted loans. This provision was added to the program in 1996 as a method of reducing the subsidy cost of the program. It has come to the Committee's attention that the expected savings have not materialized.

Section 205. Prepayment of loans. This provision will reduce the incentive for early prepayment of 7(a) loans. It will assess a fee to the borrower for early prepayment of any loan with a term in excess of 15 years. Early prepayment will be defined as any prepayment within the first three years after disbursement. The prepayment fee will be determined by the date of the prepayment—5 percent in the first year, 3 percent in the second year, 1 percent in the third year. The fee will be based on "excess prepayment" which is defined as prepayment of more than 25 percent of the outstanding loan amount. In the event of an excess prepayment the fee would be assessed on the entire outstanding loan amount.

Section 206. Guarantee fees. This section changes the guarantee fee for loans of \$150,000 or less to 2 percent. Currently, the guarantee fee of 2 percent is only for loans under \$100,000. Loans over \$100,000 currently have a guarantee fee of 3 percent. The section also provides for an incentive for lenders to make smaller loans (under \$150,000) by allowing them to retain $\frac{1}{4}$ of the guarantee fee.

Section 207. Lease Terms. Under existing 7(a) rules, loan proceeds may not be used for investment purposes. This includes purchase or construction of property to be leased to others. Currently, 7(a) loans may be used to construct property which will be used solely by the borrower.

In 1997, Congress modified this rule for the 504 program to allow for projects where a small portion of a property might be rented out permanently, but the borrower's main focus was the construction of a permanent location. This provision would allow the same authority for 7(a) loans. Borrowers would be allowed to lease up to 20 percent of a property in which they will occupy at least 60 percent of the business space.

TITLE III

The purpose of Title III of H.R. 2392 is to amend the Small Business Investment Act to make changes in the Certified Development Company (CDC) loan program at the Small Business Administration (SBA), commonly known as the 504 loan program. Title III is the substance of H.R. 2614 which passed the House earlier this Congress and contains a variety of technical and substantive changes to improve the program and correct problems brought to the Committee's attention through the oversight process.

Title III will increase the maximum amount of a 504 loan, and its underlying debenture, to \$1 million from the current limit of \$750,000 in order to keep pace with inflation. The maximum amount for loans with specific public policy purposes (low-income, rural, and minority owned businesses) is increased to \$1,300,000. The loan amount was last increased in 1988. Title III will also reauthorize the fees which support the 504 program.

Title III will also add women-owned businesses as a specific public policy goal for the 504 program. Title III will make permanent two pilot programs begun by SBA in 1997 in response to a Congressional mandate. The first pilot program, the Liquidation Pilot Program, enables certain qualified Certified Development Companies to liquidate their own loans rather than enduring the usual process of SBA controlled liquidation. The second, the Premier Certified Lenders Program, enables experienced CDCs to use streamlined procedures for loan making and liquidation.

Sec. 302. Women-Owned Businesses. Women-owned businesses are added to the list of concerns eligible for the higher debentures available for public policy purposes. Current policy goals include lending to low-income and rural areas, and loans to businesses owned by minorities.

Sec. 303. Maximum Debenture Size. Maximum loan/debenture size is increased from \$750,000 to \$1,000,000 for regular debentures. Public policy loan/debentures are increased from \$1,000,000 to \$1,300,000 for public policy debentures. This increase is commensurate with inflation since the current debenture levels were established.

Sec. 304. Fees. Currently, the 504 program levies fees on the borrower, CDC, and the participating bank. The bank pays a one-time fee whereas the borrower and CDC pay a percentage of the outstanding balance annually in order to provide operational funding for the 504 program. Currently these fees sunset on October 1, 2000. This legislation would continue the fees through October 1, 2003.

Sec. 305. Premier Certified Lenders Program. The Premier Certified Lenders Program (PCLP) is granted permanent status. The current demonstration program terminates at the end of FY 2000.

Sec. 306. Sale of Certain Defaulted Loans. SBA is required to give any certified lender with contingent liability 90 days notice prior to including a defaulted loan in a bulk sale of loans. No loan may be sold without permitting prospective purchasers to examine SBA records on the loan.

Sec. 307. Loan Liquidation. Section 510 is added to the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 in order to create a program permitting CDCs to handle the liquidation of defaulted loans. This program replaces the pilot program authorized by PL 105-135, the Small Business Reauthorization Act of 1997. A permanent program would permit OMB to score savings achieved by the program when computing the subsidy rate for the 504 program.

In order to participate in the liquidation program, a CDC must have made at least 10 loans per year for the past three years and have at least one employee with 2 years of liquidation experience or be a member of the Accredited Lenders Program with at least one employee with 2 years of liquidation experience. Both groups are required to receive training. PCLP participants and current participants in the pilot program automatically qualify.

CDCs have the authority to litigate as necessary to foreclose and liquidate, but SBA could assume control of the litigation if the outcome might adversely affect SBA's management of the program or if SBA has additional legal remedies not available to the CDC.

All Section 510 participants are required to submit a liquidation plan to SBA for approval, and SBA has 15 days to approve, deny, or express concern with the plan. Further SBA approval of routine liquidation activities is not required.

CDCs are able to purchase indebtedness with SBA approval, and SBA is required to respond to such a request within 15 days. Likewise, CDCs are required to seek SBA approval of any workout plan, and SBA must respond to that request within 15 days. With SBA approval, a CDC may compromise indebtedness. Such approval must be granted, denied, or explained within 15 days of receipt of SBA.

TITLE IV

The purpose of Title IV is to amend the Small Business Investment Act (the Act) to make changes in the Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) program at the SBA.

Title IV contains the language from H.R. 3845 which passed the House earlier this Congress and contains four technical changes to improve the program and correct problems brought to the Committee's attention through the oversight process.

H.R. 3845 modifies the definition of control for SBIC investment in small businesses, eliminating a cumbersome five prong test and setting a clear statutory standard. H.R. 3845 will also modify the definition of long term investment under the Act, changing it from five years to one year, in order to harmonize that definition with accepted business practice and the tax and banking laws. Third, the bill allows the Administration to adjust the subsidy fee for the SBIC program to maintain the subsidy rate of the program at zero. Finally, the bill makes a change to the distribution language in the Act, allowing SBICs more flexibility in making distributions to their investors and will simplify the accounting and tax procedures at SBICs.

Sec. 401. Short Title.

Sec. 402. Definitions. (a) Small Business Concern. Inserts the following language in section 103(5)(A)(i) of the Small Business Investment Act—"regardless of the allocation of control during the investment period under any investment agreement between the business concern and the entity making the investment". This phrase clarifies that a venture capital investment agreement from an SBIC may cause a change in control of a small business, but that such a change will not affect the eligibility of the small business concern. The Committee does not intend that SBICs become holding companies hence the language references the period of the investment agreement. Further, the Committee retains the authority for SBA examinations to inquire into "illegal control" by SBICs, though the committee expects such control to be that exercised outside an investment agreement.

(b) Long term. Inserts the following paragraph in section 103 of the Small Business Investment Act.

"(17) the term long term, when used in connection with equity capital or loan funds invested in any small business concern or smaller enterprise, means any period of time not less than 1 year." The language changes the definition of a long term investment to harmonize it with the tax and banking laws.

Sec. 403. Investment in SBICs. This provision allows federal savings associations to invest in SBICs.

Sec. 404. Subsidy Fees. This provision amends sections 303(b) and 303(g)(2) of the Small Business Investment Act to allow the Administration to adjust the fee assessed on debentures and participating securities up to a maximum of one percent. The fee will be adjusted to keep the subsidy cost of the programs at zero or as close as possible to zero.

Sec. 405. Distributions. This section amends section 303(g)(8) of the Small Business Investment Act in order to allow SBICs to make distributions at any time during a calendar quarter based on the maximum estimated tax liability.

Sec. 406. Conforming Amendment.

TITLE V

The purpose of Title V is to reauthorize the programs and operations of the SBA. Title V contains the language from H.R. 3843 which contained the authorization levels for SBA for fiscal years 2001, 2002, and 2003. It contains no technical or substantive changes to any of the programs. The SBA provides a variety of services for small businesses—financial assistance, technical assistance, and disaster assistance.

Financial Assistance. The SBA provides approximately \$11 billion in financing to

small businesses annually. This financing is made available through a variety of programs.

SBA's largest financial program is the Section 7(a) general business loan program. The 7(a) program offers loans to small businesses through local lending institutions. These loans are provided with an SBA guarantee of up to 80 percent and are limited to a maximum of \$750,000. The 7(a) program has a subsidy rate of 1.16 percent for fiscal year 2000 and an appropriation of \$107 million, permitting \$9.8 billion in lending.

The Section 504 loan program provides construction, renovation and capital investment financing to small businesses through CDCs. These CDCs are SBA licensed, local business development organizations which provide loans of up to \$750,000 for small businesses, in cooperation with local banks. CDCs provide 40 percent of the financing package, while the bank provides 50 percent, and the small business provides a 10 percent down payment. CDC funding is obtained through issuance of an SBA guaranteed debenture. The 504 program currently operates at no cost to the taxpayer but does require authorization.

The microloan program provides small loans of up to \$25,000 to borrowers in low-income areas. In fiscal year 1999 the program provided \$29 million in loans. In addition, the program has a technical assistance aspect that provides managerial and business expertise to microloan borrowers. Microloans are made by intermediary organizations that specialize in local business development. The program has a subsidy rate of 8.54 percent.

The Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) program provides over \$1.5 billion in long term and venture capital financing for small businesses annually. SBICs are venture capital firms that leverage private investment dollars with SBA guaranteed debentures or participating securities. The SBIC debenture program currently operates at a zero subsidy rate and requires no taxpayer subsidy. The participating securities program has a 1.8 percent subsidy rate.

Technical Assistance. The SBA provides technical and managerial assistance to small businesses through four primary programs—Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs), the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE), the 7(j) technical assistance program, and the Women's Business Center program.

SBDCs are located primarily at colleges and universities and provide assistance through 51 center sites and approximately 970 satellite offices. Through a formula of matching grants and donations SBDCs offer small businesses guidance on marketing, financing, start-up, and other areas. The program currently receives \$84 million in appropriations.

SCORE provides small business assistance on-site through the volunteer efforts of its members. SCORE volunteers are retired business men and women who offer their expertise to small businesses. SCORE volunteers are reimbursed for their travel expenses and SCORE receives funding as well for a website and offices in Washington, DC.

The 7(j) program provides financing for technical assistance to the minority contracting community primarily through courses and direct assistance from management consultants. In addition, the program provides assistance participants to attend business administration classes offered through several colleges and universities.

The Women's Business Center program provides five year grants matched by non-federal funds to private sector organizations to establish business training centers for women. Depending on the needs of the community, centers teach women the principles

of finance, management and marketing as well as specialized topics such as government contracting or starting home-based businesses. There are currently 81 centers in 47 states in rural, urban and suburban locations.

Disaster Assistance. The Small Business Administration also provides disaster loan assistance to homeowners and small businesses nationwide. This program is a key component of the overall Federal recovery effort for communities struck by natural disasters. This assistance is authorized by section 7(b) of the Small Business Act which provides authority for reduced interest rate loans. Currently the interest rates fluctuate according to the statutory formula—a lower rate, not to exceed four percent is offered to applicants with no credit available elsewhere, while a rate of a maximum of eight percent is available for other borrowers.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 501. Short Title.

Section 502. Reauthorization of Small Business Programs. This section provides the authorized appropriation levels for the following programs: Section 7(a) general business loans, Section 504 Certified Development Company loans, direct microloans, guaranteed microloans, microloan technical assistance, Defense Transition (DELTA) loans, Small Business Investment Company debentures, Small Business Investment Company participating securities, Surety Bonds guarantees, SCORE, disaster loans, and salaries and expenses.

The following are the authorization levels for the financial programs:

(in millions)	2001	2002	2003
7(a)	\$14,500	\$15,000	\$16,000
504	4,000	4,500	5,000
Microloan	60	80	100
Microloan TA	45	60	70
Microloan gty	50	50	50
SBIC debentures	1,500	2,500	3,000
SBIC part. Securities	2,500	3,500	4,000
Surety bonds	4,000	5,000	6,000

This Title also authorizes the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE). SCORE will be authorized at 5, 6, and 7 million dollars for fiscal years 2001, 2002, and 2003, respectively.

Title V also contains provisions authorizing funding for salaries and expenses at the Small Business Administration. These authorizations are established as "such sums as may be necessary".

Section 503. Additional Reauthorizations.

This section reauthorizes five programs:

(a) SBDC funding—Increases the authorization from \$95,000,000 to \$125,000,000.

(b) Drug Free Workplace—Extends authorization through fiscal year 2003 at \$5,000,000 per year.

(c) HUBZones—Authorizes appropriations of \$10,000,000 per year through fiscal year 2003.

(d) National Women's Business Council—Increases authorization to \$1,000,000 per year and extends authorization through fiscal year 2003.

(e) Very Small Business Concerns—Extends authorization through September 30, 2003.

(f) SDB Certification—Extends authorization through September 30, 2003.

TITLE VI

Title VI contains several miscellaneous authorizations and programs.

Section 601. Loan Application Processing. This section requires a study of the time required for SBA to process loan applications.

Section 602. Application of eligibility requirements. This section clarifies that women-owned business, socially and economically disadvantaged business, and veteran owned business status is to be determined without regard for the possible application of state community property laws.

Certain SBA offices have been denying loan applications based upon the possibility that qualified individuals may divorce resulting in joint ownership of the small business.

Section 603. HUBZone Eligibility. This section includes a provision extending eligibility for HUBZone Small Business Concerns for an additional year if they are located in areas that recently were removed from HUBZone status.

Section 604. Subcontracting Preference for Veterans. This clarifies that the language included in subcontracting plans for small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans and used for the purpose of data collection also includes small business concerns owned and controlled by service disabled veterans. Apparently, there is confusion over the fact that the group of veteran owned businesses also includes service disabled veteran owned businesses.

Section 605. Small Business Development Center funding. This section reforms the formula for funding Small Business Development Centers.

Section 606. Surety Bond program. Reauthorizes the Surety Bond financing program.

SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY IRRIGATION WORKS OWNERSHIP

SPEECH OF

HON. J.D. HAYWORTH

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, during House floor consideration and passage of H.R. 2820, a draft resolution was inserted into the RECORD that was to have been a signed version of the resolution from the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community approving certain amendments to the Community's water code, as contemplated, and, indeed, as required by the bill. To correct this admission, I ask unanimous consent that the attached signed copy of the Community's resolution approving the requisite amendments to its water code be inserted into the RECORD and be included in the RECORD of the proceedings of the House with regard to H.R. 2820.

SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY,
Scottsdale, AZ.

RESOLUTION No. SR-2031-2000

Whereas, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community ("SRP-MIC") Council has the authority pursuant to Article VII, Section 1(d)(5) of the Constitution of the SRP-MIC to provide for the proper use and development and prevent the misuse of the lands, natural resources and other public property of the SRP-MIC; and

Whereas, the Congress of the United States has under consideration the passage of H.R. 2820 to convey to the SRP-MIC the irrigation works formerly owned and operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and located on SRP-MIC tribal and allottee land; and

Whereas, as a result of negotiations that led to the development of H.R. 2820, and amendments thereto, the legislation's language contemplates that the Community will adopt certain amendments to its Surface Water Management Code prior to enactment of the legislation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the SRP-MIC hereby adopts the attached amendments to its Surface Water Management Code, attached hereto as Exhibits "A" and "B" respectively; and be it further

Resolved, That, if substitute legislation for H.R. 2820 (1) is not passed by the Congress prior to the adjournment sine die of the 106th Congress, or (2) if so passed by Congress, but it is not signed into law during the 106th Congress, the approval by the Community of these amendments shall become null and void.

CERTIFICATION

Pursuant to the authority contained in Article VII, Section 1(d)(5) of the Constitution of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, ratified by the Tribe, February 28, 1990, and approved by the Secretary of the Interior, March 19, 1990, the foregoing resolution was adopted this 19th day of September 2000, at a duly called meeting held by the Community Council in Salt River, Arizona at which a quorum of 5 members were present by a vote of 5 for, 0 against, and 4 excused.

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Council.

MERMA LEWIS,
Vice President.

MEDICARE COMPREHENSIVE QUALITY OF CARE AND SAFETY ACT OF 2000

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, in March of 1998, the President's Advisory Commission on Consumer Protection and Quality in the Health Care Industry (Quality Commission) issued its final report, raising concerns about medical errors and recommending steps to reduce the incidence of medical errors. The Quality Commission urged that measuring and improving quality of care be made a national priority.

In June of 1998, the Congressional Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) reported on quality of care in Medicare, and in June of 1999, MedPAC made specific recommendations for improving quality of care in Medicare. MedPAC recommended:

That quality of care goals for Medicare, including minimizing preventable errors and increasing participation by patients in their care should be established, reviewed and revised through a public process; that systems be established in Medicare for monitoring, improving and safeguarding quality of care; that the Secretary work with the private sector to develop and use common, core sets of quality measures for monitoring quality; and that to the extent possible, quality of care systems in the traditional Medicare fee-for-service program and Medicare+Choice be comparable.

In July of last year, the Inspector General issued four reports citing major deficiencies in the accreditation of hospitals to ensure that quality of care provided in hospitals for Medicare by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Health Care Organizations (JCAHO). The Inspector General made a series of recommendations for improving the accreditation of hospitals to ensure that quality of care provided in hospitals met Medicare standards. Also last year, the General Accounting Office issued reports citing major deficiencies in the accreditation of nursing facilities.

Then, in November of last year, the Institute of Medicine issued a report, "To Err is Human", which reported that almost 100,000

people may be killed each year by medical errors. The IOM recommended that improving health care safety be made a national priority and that a nationwide mandatory reporting system of medical errors by providers should be established. The IOM also called for a "culture of safety" in health care organizations. On February 10, 2000, the Ways and Means Health Subcommittee held hearings on the IOM report.

And yesterday, October 4, 2000, the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) published an article reporting on the findings of a study on quality of care furnished to Medicare fee-for-service (FFS) beneficiaries. The study examined Medicare hospital claims by State for 24 quality of care performance indicators. The study found wide variation in quality of care both among States and among performance indicators.

The authors state: "Available data suggest that providing the services measured here could each save hundreds to thousands of lives a year." The authors report that "there has been no systematic program for monitoring the quality of medical care provided to FFS

Today, I along with Mr. NEAL and Mr. JEFFERSON, am introducing legislation that would address the recommendations made by these distinguished organizations. For the first time since the Medicare program was enacted, my bill would establish quality of care as a major emphasis in Medicare.

The "Medicare Comprehensive Quality of Care and Safety Act of 2000" would for the first time in the history of Medicare establish a comprehensive quality of care and safety system in Medicare for setting quality of care goals and priorities, conducting research and setting standards for quality of care, monitoring quality, safeguarding quality, and establishing systems to improve information and education of patients and providers concerning quality of care issues.

Perhaps most important of all, my legislation will create a "culture of safety and quality" in health care by requiring every provider to establish a "Medicare Quality of Care and Safety Program" (MQCSP). Based on model fraud and abuse compliance plans developed and implemented by the HHS Inspector General, every Medicare provider would be required to implement a quality monitoring and error reduction program—"Medicare Quality of Care and Safety Program"—and to report serious failures to meet quality standards and medical errors. The Secretary would be required to establish a national database of medical errors, as called for by the Institute of Medicine.

This legislation would establish a Medicare Quality and Safety Advisory Committee, which would be charged with recommending annual goals and priorities on quality of care. In the Medicare comprehensive quality of care system, the Secretary would be required to establish quality standards, including performance measures. The Secretary would be required to coordinate Medicare quality of care activities with those in other Agencies of the Department. As an example, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have for many years established and implemented performance standards for certain aspects of care; the CDC

Medical Infection Disease System (MIDS) provides performance standards for limiting the spread of infectious diseases in hospitals. My legislation would require Medicare to make use of these standards and others already developed either in government or in the private sector. The Secretary would be required to establish systems to adopt these standards in Medicare and educate providers on their use.

Providers would be required to report quality of care and medical error data in a completely confidential system, and the Secretary would be required to establish data systems to monitor the performance of providers regarding quality of care and medical errors. The Secretary would be required to use standard data so that comparisons could be made across providers.

My legislation does not envision a punitive system, but rather a system of working together to achieve improvements in quality and error reduction. I believe that most medical errors are the result of systems failures, and my legislation would focus on correcting these systems errors. I also believe that improvement must come from within health care organizations, rather than being imposed from outside. That is why my legislation would focus on identifying and correcting systems failures from within. However, I also believe that information on best practices and standards must be collected at the national level and shared with health care providers.

This legislation would build on the organizations that are already charged with sharing information and helping to improve quality of care are the Peer Review Organizations (PROs). The Secretary would be required to develop standards and train the PROs regarding those standards. PROs, in turn, would train health care providers in implementing those standards. PROs would also be required to investigate serious failures by providers to meet quality standards, including serious medical errors, and work with providers to implement corrective action plans to modify systems or take other actions to improve quality and minimize errors.

As a way of increasing the confidence of providers in the PROs, fraud and abuse activities of the PROs would be phased out, and their work would be limited to quality related activities. The legislation would change the name of the PROs to "Quality Improvement Organizations" in keeping with their new emphasis in Medicare.

The Secretary would be required to monitor quality and safety through a national data system, as recommended by virtually all of the organizations reporting on quality of care. To help providers feel more comfortable in reporting problems with quality or medical errors, the Secretary would be required to establish a confidential reporting system so that physicians, employees of providers, and others would be able to report errors or other failures on a confidential basis. Employees would be provided whistle blower protection for reporting quality failures and errors. Providers who achieve outstanding results in meeting quality standards and minimizing errors would be rewarded with the designation of "Medicare Provider of Excellence."

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE VETERANS' COMMEMORATION ACT OF 2000

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Veterans Commemoration Act of 2000. This piece of legislation will help to alleviate a serious impediment to adequate health care for our veterans.

Many veterans have trouble getting to and from VA hospitals. The legislation that I am introducing today would create a coin commemorating Executive Order 5398, signed by President Herbert Hoover on July 21, 1930, which established the Veterans Administration. The proceeds from the sale of this coin would fund a transportation program for veterans, provided by the Disabled American Veterans.

This program provides a much-needed service to our nation's veterans. The DAV provides transportation services to veterans to and from VA hospitals. Considering the fact that many veterans live far away from VA hospitals and are disabled, the lack of transportation can be a very serious impediment to adequate health care.

In my home state of Washington, the Veterans Administration hospital in Seattle serves the entire Pacific Northwest. Many of the patients who rely upon the care provided by the VA have severe disabilities that prevent them from easily accessing the clinic. Public transportation serves those veterans that live in the Metropolitan area, but for the thousands of veterans without access to public transportation, the DAV steps in to provide door to door services. This essential program is truly the missing link for veterans' health care.

The DAV has recognized this need by creating the transportation program. This program has been very successful so far. But it only operates in a few select areas and serves only a handful of veterans. This program should be available to all veterans, but the DAV simply cannot afford to fund a project of that magnitude. This bill would create the funds necessary to expand this program.

With no cost to the taxpayer, we can help our nation's veterans and show them that their needs are important. We must show our support to the brave men and women who have risked their lives to serve this country. This unique program, provided by the DAV, deserves our support.

Today I stand with over 150 of my colleagues to introduce this legislation. This bipartisan bill has diverse and broad support. We have the time and the support to pass this bill now. We should not wait for the next Congress to take action when we have the ability and the will to do so now. I urge my colleagues to stand with me and with the Disabled American Veterans to pass this bill and support our veterans.

THE CHILDREN OF SIERRA LEONE

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, if you are paying attention to the House floor at this mo-

ment, please listen very closely to what some of my colleagues and I are discussing. Because we are talking about saving children who are being savaged and we desperately need your help.

If you can, please stop what you are doing for a second—I know we're all very busy right now, but again this is important. So, please, stop what you are doing and remember for a moment what you felt like when you were a child, especially if you had moments in which you felt very vulnerable in any way.

Now, take that feeling, and try to imagine living in a community ripped by the throes of war—your parents are missing, friends, sisters and brothers beaten, broken and battered, if even still alive.

And as you imagine this life, now look down at your arms and legs. Imagine an arm or a leg or more mutilated and even severed from your body. Think about that. Can you even bear to imagine it?

As hard as it is to believe, there are children today who don't have to imagine this horror because they live it. They see where their arms and legs once were. They know that their family has been destroyed.

They are the children of Sierra Leone.

And no matter what your politics are, humanity calls us to act. Support funding for peacekeeping now. Support Tony Hall's bill to halt the illegal diamond trade that funds this butchering now. Don't wait. Support ending the horrific suffering of these children now.

CELEBRATION IN PITTSBURGH

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call my colleagues' attention to an upcoming ceremony that will be held in Pittsburgh on October 13, 2000, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Homestead Grays and the 40th anniversary of Bill Mazeroski's World Series-winning home run. The joint ceremony serves to highlight Pittsburgh's long history of outstanding professional baseball.

The Homestead Grays was a Negro League baseball team that was originally formed by local African American steelworkers. The Homestead Grays played baseball from 1900 until Major League baseball teams were integrated 50 years ago, and the club won a number of pennants. The Grays, incidentally, played the first night game in Pittsburgh baseball history—against the Kansas City Monarchs at Forbes Field on July 25, 1930.

The Homestead Grays were known for several outstanding players who could compete with the best baseball players of the time, white or black. A number of these players were eventually inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. Oscar Charleston, first baseman and manager for the Grays—with a lifetime batting average of .357, the ranking of fourth on the all-time home run list for the Negro Leagues, and fielding that was deemed superior to that of his white contemporary Ty Cobb—was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1976. Smoky Joe Williams, who pitched for the Grays, was voted the greatest pitcher in Negro League history in 1952, beating out Leroy

"Satchel" Paige. The Grays claim Buck Leonard, another first baseman and home run hitter, as well as Ray Brown, who in 1940 had the greatest season of any Negro league pitcher ever with 24 wins and only 4 losses. Catcher and power-hitter Josh Gibson was another of the stars of the Homestead Grays. Gibson has the distinction of having hit a 505-foot home run in Yankee Stadium—a feat matched or exceeded by no one, not even Babe Ruth (and in fact, only Dave Winfield and Doug DeCinces have even come close). I am pleased to note that Josh Gibson, Jr., who also played professional baseball, will receive a plaque at this ceremony in honor of his father.

I'd like to note in passing that the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission put up a State historic marker to honor the Homestead Grays on the 100th anniversary of their founding. That marker, which was dedicated last week, can be found at the intersection of Amity Street and Fifth Avenue in Homestead, PA.

The October 13th ceremony will also honor Bill Mazerowski, long-time second baseman for the Pittsburgh Pirates. Mazerowski, who played for the Pirates from 1956 until 1972, was a great infielder and defensive player. Maz won eight Gold Gloves and was picked as an All-Star seven times. He holds the record as the second-baseman with the most double plays in Major League history—1,706—and the most double plays in one season—161 in 1966. He holds the Major League record for the most seasons leading the league in assists, and in five of those nine seasons, he was credited with 500 or more assists. For these accomplishments, if for nothing else, he deserves admission to the National Baseball Hall of Fame, an honor which to this date he has been unfairly denied.

Despite a long career of excellence in fielding, however, Maz is probably best remembered for his winning home run in the 1960 World Series against one of the greatest Yankees teams ever—a team that included baseball greats Mickey Mantle, Whitey Ford, and Yogi Berra. In the seventh game of the 1960 World Series, the Yankees and the Pirates were tied at three games apiece. In the bottom of the ninth inning, with the score tied at nine runs for each team, Bill Mazerowski knocked a home run over the left center field wall of Forbes Field, and the Pirates won the World Series four games to three with a score of 10 to 9. That one magnificent achievement has tended to obscure the remainder of William Stanley Mazerowski's outstanding career in Major League baseball. Mr. Mazerowski will also receive a plaque at the October 13th ceremony in acknowledgment of his many accomplishments on the 40th anniversary of his famous home run.

The ceremony will also highlight plans for the painting of two new wall murals on the wall that runs along the Boulevard of the Allies in Pittsburgh. One of these murals will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Homestead Grays. The other will honor Mr. Mazerowski. The brass plaques that Mr. Mazerowski and Mr. Gibson will receive during the ceremony will be mounted alongside these murals. I believe that this is a fitting tribute to two of Pittsburgh's outstanding sports teams and two of Pittsburgh's greatest sports heroes.

TRIBUTE TO BROTHER MARTIN MCMURTREY

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and pay tribute to a true San Antonio legend, Brother Martin McMurtrey. After 56 years of service as an educator in the Society of Mary Catholic schools, 49 of those years being spent at Central Catholic High School in San Antonio, TX, Brother McMurtrey has announced his retirement.

Having received a bachelor of arts degree in English from the University of Dayton in 1942, and a master of education degree from St. Louis University in 1949, Brother McMurtrey first entered a classroom as a teacher in 1944. Shortly after, in 1951, Brother McMurtrey moved to San Antonio and began teaching at Central Catholic.

During his years at Central Catholic, Brother McMurtrey taught courses in English and drafting, coached football, authored two books, and dedicated countless hours to working with the disadvantaged in San Antonio parishes. I know that even though he is retiring, Brother McMurtrey will continue teaching all of us. As a matter of fact, I am sure that he will check the spelling and grammar of this entry in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the U.S. House of Representatives.

In addition, Brother McMurtrey established a scholarship fund to assist students who could otherwise not afford to attend Catholic schools. He also spent 22 years volunteering after school as a Confraternity of Christian Doctrine teacher and as a worker with the Presentation Nuns. He also organized the Guardian Angels at Central Catholic, an organization that guided student collections of food, toys, and clothing during holiday seasons.

It is estimated that during his half-century of service, Brother McMurtrey touched the lives of some 6,000 students. Those students have gone on to careers in education, medicine, law, public service, and countless other fields. Indeed the impact that Brother McMurtrey has had on the lives of his students and on the San Antonio community is immeasurable.

Upon hearing Brother McMurtrey's announcement, several former Central Catholic students joined together to plan a retirement celebration aptly titled "The Last English Class." Mr. Speaker, today I join those students in thanking Brother McMurtrey for enriching the lives of all who had the privilege of his mentorship.

TRIBUTE TO SGT. MAJOR BILLY RAY LANEY OF CHEROKEE COUNTY, ALABAMA

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize a fallen soldier from my home state of Alabama. It is a most unusual day for my district, today they are welcoming home Sgt. Maj. Laney 33 years after they sent him off to

serve his country in the Vietnam War. Laney's widow, Charline and his three grown children, Wanda, Billy Ray Jr. and Vicky deserve our recognition for the sacrifices they have endured these many years. As their husband and father is laid to rest in the soil he fought and died to protect, I would like to offer my condolences to the family and express my utmost gratitude for Sgt. Maj. Laney's brave actions.

Sgt. Maj. Laney was only in Vietnam for one month. He was a member of the 5th Special Forces Group of the 1st Airborne Division and was listed as missing in action June 3, 1967 in Laos. Although the Department of Defense declared him deceased eleven years ago, his family has had no physical evidence of his death until two months ago.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Veterans Groups of my district: Vietnam Veterans of America, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Military Order of the Purple Heart and Disabled American Veterans for going to extraordinary efforts to ensure that Sgt. Maj. Laney's life and death and his families' sacrifices will not be forgotten. Today as Sgt. Maj. Laney's remains are returned home, though tardy, he will be honored properly. Governor Don Siegelman, the Honor Guard and the Alabama State Patrol are traveling to join the procession and to pay their respects to this brave soldier and his family.

Sgt. Maj. Billy Ray Laney's retrieval sheds light on the POW/MIAs still unaccounted for across the country. There are two soldiers from Alabama listed as missing, Prentice Wayne Hicks and Edward Upner. I would like to take this opportunity to say that my thoughts are with their families and let them know that there is still hope that we will uncover their fate.

On behalf of the Congress of the United States, I would like to pay tribute to Sgt. Maj. Billy Ray Laney and his loving family. We can never afford to forget the victories and sacrifices of our veterans like Sgt. Maj. Laney lest we take for granted the precious freedoms we enjoy every minute of every day. My thoughts and prayers are with them today as they welcome their husband and father home to rest.

ATAXIA AWARENESS DAY

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, September 25, 2000, marked International Ataxia Awareness Day. Ataxia disorders comprise a family of progressive, degenerative, neurological illnesses which affect more than 100,000 American families, including many in my District. Ataxia usually initially affects coordination, speech, and balance, but various forms often progress to impact the heart, sight, and hearing.

Unfortunately, there are no effective treatments for this often fatal disease. Worse, our very limited understanding of most forms of the disorder has not even produced any effective treatments. Hopefully we can increase awareness of this serious public health threat and spur the type of progress which will bring hope to the thousands of American families dealing with Ataxia.

The biomedical revolution which has taken root over the last couple of decades offers great promise. That is why I have been a proud supporter of the research efforts at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Institute on Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), the component of NIH charged with the study of Ataxia.

For example, NINDS-supported research has recently generated considerable new insights into more than 100 related gene defects which cause nervous system disorders. This work is particularly important to those suffering from the many forms of Ataxia which still cannot be specifically diagnosed. As we identify the genes responsible we can more quickly identify specific forms, and perhaps more importantly, begin developing treatment models.

Additionally, we need to continue to create incentives for additional private research aimed at the so-called orphan diseases. These relatively rare conditions do not receive the resources and attention that are often associated with more common public health problems like cancer and heart disease. I believe these special incentives for those developing orphan drugs have proven to be an unqualified success resulting in more new research on Ataxia, multiple sclerosis, ALS and other neurological disorders.

Even with all these efforts under way, it will still take time to even fully understand the questions we need to be asking about Ataxia. That is why it is so important to inform the public about this work and encourage the medical and emotional support those affected need. International Ataxia Awareness Day should be a substantial step in this direction, and I anticipate it will be an annual event. At the same time, we can hope that current research foreshadows a day when it will no longer be necessary to raise awareness of Ataxia.

SCIENCE SPENDING

HON. SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I insert in the record an op-ed piece that appeared in yesterday's Washington Post—an op-ed that I am also distributing as a Dear Colleague letter.

The column is by Dr. Harold Varmus, a distinguished Nobel Laureate and former director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) who is now president of the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City.

Dr. Varmus' point is that Congress needs to be investing adequately in science spending across the board, not just at NIH. Improvements in medicine rest on advancements in a wide variety of fields; we can't improve health in this country by focusing exclusively on NIH.

This is advice we would be wise to heed. The federal research portfolio has become too skewed toward medical research. We need to address that imbalance not by reducing funding for NIH but by increasing funding for the other federal research agencies. That would be a wise investment in this time of surplus.

I'm pleased to say that Congress is beginning to take steps in that direction. I know, for example, that the appropriations bill my good friend and neighbor Congressman JIM WALSH

has put together includes a substantial increase for the National Science Foundation (NSF).

But we need to make a comprehensive, consistent commitment to funding the entire federal science portfolio more generously. I look forward to working with my colleagues to accomplish just that.

[From the Washington Post, Oct. 4, 2000]

SQUEEZE ON SCIENCE

(By Harold Varmus)

In recent weeks both presidential campaigns have voiced their support of efforts to double the budget of the National Institutes of Health. This is an encouraging sign that the current bipartisan enthusiasm for medical research will continue in the next administration. But it also offers an opportunity to make an important point about the kinds of science required to achieve breakthroughs against disease.

The NIH does a magnificent job, but it does not hold all the keys to success. The work of several science agencies is required for advances in medical sciences, and the health of some of those agencies is suffering.

For the coming fiscal year, Congress has again—magnanimously and appropriately—slated the NIH for a major increase, its third consecutive 15 percent increase. By these actions, Congress has shown that it is determined to combat the scourges of our time, including heart disease, cancer, diabetes, AIDS and Alzheimer's disease.

But Congress is not addressing with sufficient vigor the compelling needs of the other science agencies, especially the National Science Foundation and the Office of Science at the Department of Energy. This disparity in treatment undermines the balance of the sciences that is essential to progress in all spheres, including medicine.

I first observed the interdependence of the sciences as a boy when my father—a general practitioner with an office connected to our house—showed me an X-ray. I marveled at a technology that could reveal the bones of his patients or the guts of our pets. And I learned that it was something that doctors, no matter how expert with a stethoscope or suture, wouldn't have been likely to develop on their own.

Of course, the X-ray is routine now. Medical science can visualize the inner workings of the body at far higher resolution with techniques that sound dazzlingly sophisticated: ultrasound, positron-emission tomography and computer-assisted tomography. These techniques are the workhorses of medical diagnostics. And not a single one of them could have been developed without the contributions of scientists, such as mathematicians, physicists and chemists supported by the agencies currently at risk.

Effective medicines are among the most prominent products of medical research, and drug development also relies heavily on contributions from a variety of sciences. The traditional method of random prospecting for a few promising chemicals has been supplemented and even superseded by more rational methods based on molecular structures, computer-based images and chemical theory. Synthesis of promising compounds is guided by new chemical methods that can generate either pure preparations of a single molecule or collections of literally millions of subtle variants. To exploit these new possibilities fully, we need strength in many disciplines, not just pharmacology.

Medical advances may seem like wizardry. But pull back the curtain, and sitting at the lever is a high-energy physicist, a combinatorial chemist or an engineer. Magnetic resonance imaging is an excellent example. Per-

haps the last century's greatest advance in diagnosis. MRI is the product of atomic, nuclear and high-energy physics, quantum chemistry, computer science, cryogenics, solid state physics and applied medicine.

In other words, the various sciences together constitute the vanguard of medical research. And it's time for Congress to treat them that way. Sens. Christopher Bond (R-Mo.) and Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.) have just proposed to double the budget of the National Science Foundation over five years. This admirable effort should be vigorously supported and extended to include the Department of Energy's Office of Science, which fund half of all research in the physical sciences and maintains the national laboratories that are central to biomedicine.

Scientists can wage an effective war on disease only if we—as a nation and as a scientific community—harness the energies of many disciplines, not just biology and medicine. The allies must include mathematicians, physicists, engineers and computer and behavioral scientists. I made this case repeatedly during my tenure as director of NIH, and the NIH has made significant efforts to boost its support of these areas. But in the long run, it is essential to provide adequate budgets for the agencies that traditionally fund such work and train its practitioners. Moreover, this will encourage the interagency collaboration that fuels interdisciplinary science. Only in this way will medical research be optimally poised to continue its dazzling progress.

H.R. 4292: THE BORN-ALIVE INFANTS PROTECTION ACT OF 2000

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend my colleagues in the House of Representatives for demonstrating their overwhelming support for H.R. 4292 last week. The Born-Alive Infants Protection Act of 2000, which is designed to ensure that all infants who are born alive are treated as persons for purposes of federal law, passed the House with 385 votes.

It has long been accepted legal principle that infants who are born alive are persons and are entitled to the full protection of the law. In fact, many states have statutes that, with some variations, explicitly enshrine this principle as a matter of state law, and some federal courts have recognized the principle in interpreting federal laws. But recent changes in the legal and cultural landscape appear to have brought this well-settled principle into question.

Babies whose lungs are insufficiently developed to permit sustained survival are often spontaneously delivered alive, and they may live for hours or days. Others are born alive following deliveries induced for medical reasons, or following attempted abortions. Enactment of H.R. 4292 is necessary to ensure that all infants who are born alive are treated as legal persons for purposes of federal law.

H.R. 4292 is proposed to codify (for federal law purposes only) the traditional definition of "born alive" that is already found in the laws of most states: complete expulsion from the mother, accompanied by heartbeat, respiratory, and/or voluntary movements.

Although I was unable to vote on this legislation, I wholeheartedly support it and urge its enactment into law.

H.R. 4365: CHILDREN'S HEALTH ACT
OF 2000

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, a woman who becomes pregnant in less than ideal circumstances has a difficult road ahead no matter what action she takes. She faces serious questions about what will happen to her future: Will the father help? How will I afford the costs? What will my family think and will they support my decision? How am I going to get through this? It is an incredibly scary time and the ultimate question is whether her life will ever be the same.

My biggest concern for a woman in this situation is that she may see abortion as the easiest solution—when there is no easy choice. Too often, I hear stories about women who are frantic for a solution and rush to an abortion clinic without learning about the long-term emotional and physical consequences. As a mother and a grandmother, I can tell you that pregnancy changes a woman's life forever—even if the pregnancy is not carried to term.

The law states that women have the right to choose between carrying the baby and aborting it. Before she makes the decision, I pray that she is given the information and the support to truly be able to choose what is best for her and the tiny baby.

This bill strengthens a woman's choices in two ways. First, it increases access to information about adoption in the health clinics where it is needed most. Women facing unplanned pregnancies deserve to hear about their options from a well-trained counselor who can provide accurate, up-to-date information and refer them to a reputable placement agency.

This bill also authorizes a new grant program for research and additional services (such as mobile health clinics to provide comprehensive health services, including ultrasound screenings), to enhance access to health care for pregnant women and infants, including grants to increase access to prenatal care, ultrasound services, and prenatal surgery.

Prenatal surgery is now a very realistic option. Look at this picture that was taken by Max Aguilera-Hellwag—this baby underwent prenatal surgery to correct spina bifida. Sarah Marie Switzer was born on August 22, 1999.

Mr. Speaker, there are many exciting programs contained in this bill, and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 4365.

IN RECOGNITION OF BENNIE L.
THAYER

HON. NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Ms. VALAZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a sad farewell to Bennie Thayer, the long-time President and Chief Executive of the National Association for the Self-Employed, who died October 2.

As a retailer and manufacturer himself, Mr. Thayer knew small business issues from the inside out. On the first day that I became the Democratic leader of the House Small Business Committee, he came to my office to advocate the need to accelerate the 100 percent deduction of health insurance for the self-employed.

He was a regular fixture in the Halls of Congress, where he frequently testified about the importance of simplifying government regulations for small businesses, clarifying the

home-office deduction and promoting tax fairness.

When Mr. Thayer talked, I listened, because I knew he spoke straight from the heart of the small business community.

He has such an impressive history of accomplishments on behalf of small businesses that it is impossible to list them all adequately. He chaired and served on the boards of numerous local and national business associations concerned with economic development, credit development, small business enhancement and general business growth. In this capacity, he advised three Presidents on small business issues.

He authored a book that examined health care issues from the standpoint of small business owners. It was called, "We, the People: An American Solution to Health Care Reform."

But his accomplishments don't stop there. He served as the State Chair of the Maryland delegation to the 1995 White House Conference on Small Business and as the Regional Implementation Chairman. He was also on the Microsoft Small Business Technology Board to promote computer and information technology to small businesses nationwide. And he served as the Co-Chairman of the Maryland Delegation to the 1986 White House Conference on Small Business.

He was a renowned public speaker, appearing on various radio and television shows to increase awareness of the opportunities and challenges of the self-employed.

I will remember Bennie Thayer as a passionate champion of small businesses, a man of principle and someone who cared deeply about his community.

While the nation's small businesses have lost a great advocate, Mr. Thayer's legacy will live on in Congress and in the hearts of the self-employed.

I salute Bennie Thayer and extend my sympathies to his family.